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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH, 2009

Campaign group hopes for reprieve Future of Bryneithin hangs in balance as Vale cabinet meets

REPORT by TIM CHAPMAN

ure of a local campaign to keep Bryneithin Residential Care Home open in Dinas Powys was hanging in the balance vesterday (Wednesday, November 18).

The Vale Council cabinet were meeting in the afternoon to consider a report which recommends closing the 19bed home for older people with dementia-related illnesses.

The main recommendation being discussed was the closure of Bryneithin and offering all of the residents the choice of a place in Ty Dyfan, a home in Barry

five miles away.
The council says that the accommodation at Ty Dyfan would be newly refurbished, mod-ernised and specifically designed to cater well for the needs of residents.

However, the Keep Bryneithin Group which has waged a campaign, including a march through Dinas Powys which drew 200 supporters, is adamantly opposed to the closure of what is currently the Vale's only dedicated home for people with dementia

Margot Farbrace, the group's chairwoman, whose 89-year-old war veteran father Arthur Samuel is cared for in the home, says residents would suffer from 'relocation stress syndrome'.

"The care at Bryneithin is excellent. It is effectively my father's home. The staff are wonderful and treat people with such

respect.

"Just a few days ago, they took him down to see Cardiff City's new football stadium - the care for people at the home is person-centred

"Bryneithin is a large Edwardian house, a big, airy place in which peo-ple are free to move around; moving them to Ty Dyfan, which I have seen myself, means they will be like battery hens.

THE success or fail- restricted to small rooms and a narrow corridor and a sitting, dining

> She believes the council should have drafted in a consultant in psychogeriatrics to advise on the effect moving res idents might have. In a last-minute bid to

get the cabinet members to reject the report's recommendations. Mrs. Farbrace has written to them to say that a move could "severely trauma-tise" Mr Samuel.

She added: "Even at this late stage, I am hoping the home won't be closed.

Jane Hutt, the Vale's AM, said: "Bryneithin residents and relatives must be respected.

"I am seeking advice from the Deputy Minister for Social Services Gwenda Thomas AM, to clarify that the needs of the most vulnerable elderly people at Bryneithin should be respected and

safe guarded.
"Their needs must be at the forefront of any decisions being made about the future of Bryneithin Residential Care Home

(CONTINUED



ABOVE: The Keep Bryneithin Open group.

STOP PRESS: As The GEM was going to press, the Vale Council cabinet deferred a decision on the home to give relatives until November 25 to submit further comments.

Brothers rescued from Cadoxton fire

TWO brothers aged 41 and 38 were res cued from an end of terrace fire in Cadoxton by firefighters in the early hours

of Saturday morning. Two fire engines and nine firefighters from Barry Fire Station went to the fire in Davies Street at 1.20am.

The house owner had made an emergency call after a chip pan had caught alight, causing a fire in the kitchen. Smoke had rapidly filled the house.

Firefighters with breathing apparatus forced entry into the

C&H PLUMBING SUPPLIES

⇉

The owner, who was semi-conscious, and his brother, who was rescued unconscious from a loft conversion, were both given oxygen treatment and taken to hospital with smoke inhala-

A spokesman for the Fire Service said: "The occupants of the house were very lucky, as there were no smoke alarms in the house.

"We would urge peo-ple who do not have a smoke alarm to get in touch with us to have a home fire safety check and get an alarm fitted free of charge.

The number to call is

Traders start countdown to big festive bonanza! HIGH STREET is Victorian Day, However, feature a wide range of wonderland open

Mr Anthony Hopkins told The GEM: "We didn't know until three or four weeks ago that it would all go ahead, but now that it is, we hope the people of Barry and the Vale will get behind the event.

"The official switch-on will take place on Saturday, December 5. "This year, we've decided that youngsters from local schools will take a vital role in events.

"There will be a box with multiple switches and we hope 14 pupils who have won competi tions in the schools, will flick the switches.

"It should be a great evening, complete with Santa and his sleigh."

Last year, there were no Christmas lights in High Street, due to escalating insurance costs. Instead, there was a

HIGH STREET is Victorian Day. However, feature a wide range of the local traders has announced.

Victorian Day. However, feature a wide range of wonderland open air ice to have Christmas thanks to a High Street live music, including rink until Sunday, live music including rink until Sunday, live music including rink until Sunday, live music, including rink until Sunday, live music including rink until Sunday, lanuary 3.

It will be open from 2pm to 8pm, midweek, out of school holidays, and from 12pm to 8pm during the school holidays, and from 12pm to 8pm during the school holidays.

will start at 5pm and the switch-on takes place at 5.15pm.

A week earlier, on grotto on Saturday, Saturday, November 28, December 5, and on King Square will host Christmas on the The grotto will be Square', a free funpacked event which will on the Saturday and from include street entertain- 10am to 3pm on the ers, fire jugglers, mulled Sunday. The £3 admis-wine and a live music sion includes a gift.

the festive lights again. The new, real, The Christmas parade Christmas tree will be lit

up on the square at 5pm. Central Park will be home to Santa and his

stage. From December 5,
The event runs from Barry Island will be host-

during the school holi-days and weekends.

Skating will cost £2.50 per child, and £3 for an

A Christmas-themed festive train will be running to the Island from the Good Shed Waterfront Station on December 5,12 and 19, from 11am until 4pm.

For more on the traders' Christmas lights From December 5, story please turn to our special High Street fea-12noon to 6pm, and will ing a festive 'winter ture on pages 17-21.

TANNING SALON'S OWNER FACING JAIL

is facing jail, after a 14-year- tan. old girl suffered severe burns on his sunbeds.

Schoolgirl Kirsty McRae suffered 70 per cent burns after using

A BARRY tanning salon owner the unmanned salon to get a quick

The owner, James Hadley (25), was prosecuted under health and safety laws after Kirsty ended up on a drip in hospital.

(COÑTINUED ON PAGE 3)



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'Remember the case of Dr Price

HAVE been following the story of Maurice Kirk 'The Flying Vet', via The GEM online from southern California, USA.

As a Welsh expatriot, I am thoroughly appalled that a British subject has been called "a fool" for wanting to appear in pro per.
What came to mind

was the case of Dr William Price of Llantrisant, who did just that, and won his case over cremation rights.

Is this because Mr sensitive topic of guns? or is it because he has been found 'unfit' to represent himself after the psychiatric evalua-

I am sure that if Dr Price was to appear in pro per today, he too would have been subjected to a psych evalua-tion – as let's face it, burning one's son is rather more 'out there than simply wanting to sell an old gun! Jackie

McMahon/Williams, Simi Valley, California,

Office closure is not logical

CAN'T understand the logic of closing the Vale Council offices as they are very handy, especially for older people to pay their council tax and rent.

I wonder whether our three local Vale Conservative councillors voted for the closures and if so, why are we voting for them? PM Brown, Cowbridge

Speedway appeal

HAVE been a Speedway supporter all my life. I am an enthusiastic collector of all things that go with the sport.

I am appealing for help in building up my hobby. Many people from Barry used to watch speedway at Penarth Road in Cardiff and the 'Dragons' had a branch of their supporters club in the town.

If any readers can help me, I would be pleased to hear from

them. F Whitehouse, 114 Upper-Ettingshall



Road, Coselev. Bilston, West Midlands, WV14 9QU

Papal bull

Last week's lead letter (by Diane Mitchell) carried the suggestion that Pope Innocent IV had passed a Papal Bull in 1952.

Now, Popes in the middle ages had great power and influence, but this particular Pope was in office from 1243 to 1253, so the year 1952 was beyond his reach, even with Papal infallibility.

The correct date, of course, was 1252

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Council should expand Llantwit office to promote the Vale...

Metrix and do not speak on behalf of the DTC; I am a resident of Llantwit Major who is concerned over this proposed closure.

It is the wrong move by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, at

the wrong time.

The Vale will be the home of the MoD Defence Technical College (DTC). Final work is now being undertaken in preparation for a major financial investment and construction programme of the DTC

time, the DTC will employ several hundred staff and have thou-sands of students passing through

its gates.
How is the Vale Council meeting this expansion? By contrac-tion of its services to the Vale by the closure of the Llantwit Major council office.

Llantwit Major is the closest town to the DTC. Across the United Kingdom, Metrix will be recruiting staff to come and work here at the DTC.

When they come to Llantwit Major to check the town for a possible place to live and raise a family, will they be able to talk to

office, at this point in time, serves a greater need than a 'standard' council office. It is the closest council office to the proposed DTC site, a place where prospective residents of the Vale of Glamorgan (VoG) can talk to council staff about life in the

The council should consider expansion of this office in order to promote the VoG as a place to live and raise a family, with a permanent display of the benefits of living and working here. Charles Allen

'Well done, Llantwit Major, on Remembrance Day turn-out

N the past, The **GEM** has -always given the Remembrance Day celebrations throughout the Vale the excellent coverage it deserves. This vear was no exception.

As usual, Llantwit

Major's observance featured prominently. Our town clerk has already expressed the appreciation of the Town Council through your columns, but I wonder if I might add a few words of my own before the occasion is consigned to history.

This year was the largest turnout that I can

remember, and it is a 'Let's put the

community first' am sure I speak for many in Llantwit Major in offering thanks to Jane Hutt AM and Coun Gwyn John for their considerable efforts to save our local cash

The office serves as a visible presence of the Vale Council in Llantwit, providing a high quality,

face-to-face advisory and support service.

The decision to close the office is a disgrace and

aises a number of important issues.

Firstly, why did the Conservative councillors in Llantwit allow this to happen? They had the ability to influence their Conservative colleagues in the Vale cabinet but either chose not to do so, or their

views count for very little.

Surely, the first priority of a local councillor is to protect local public services. In that regard, they have dismally failed.

Secondly, where is Alun Cairns? We have all become used to the AM for South West Wales involving himself in most populist causes in the Vale, but on this issue he seems to be strangely

Thirdly, it is important the warring factions on The town needs strong leadership during these difficults of the town needs strong leadership during these difficult economic times, and it is incumbent on all

our elected councillors to put the interests of the community ahead of pointless personal vendettas.

Llantwit Major and St Athan Labour Party

pity that our central square can no longer accommodate all those wishing to take part.

There have been criticisms of the organisation in the past, but this year congratulations must be extended to all those responsible.
The ceremony was

preceded by the ringing of the half-muffled church bells. A poignant opening to a solemn

occasion.

The band and contingents from all three serv-ices played their usual significant part impecca-bly, but special thanks must go to the many

youth organisations who were represented. These youngsters were a credit to themselves and their

The conduct of the service by the clergy of all the churches in the town was a fine example of the sort of co-opera tion that can be achieved when the will exists.

As one of the few war veterans able to make it, may I say on behalf of all of those unable to attend: "Well done, and a big thank you to every one.

Long may it continue

Jim Morgan, Llantwit

For more reader's letters, turn to page 6

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL NOVEMBER 26)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15-20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
19 Thur	09.04	14.2	21.27	13.9
20 Fri	09.41	13.9	22.01	13.5
21 Sat	10.17	13.4	22.34	13.1
22 Sun	10.51	12.9	23.03	12.7
23 Mon	11.27	12.5	23.46	12.3
24 Tues			12.06	12.2
25 Wed	00.31	11.9	12.57	11.9
26 Thur	01.31	11.5	14.08	11.7

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RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522

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www.childline.org.uk Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.

RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191. AIDS helplines 0800 567123.

Child abuse - NSPCC 0808 800 5000. Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555

Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000. Inroads Drugs Project - 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.

Vale Victim & Witness Support -

Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's **SURGERY TIMES**

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours

CITIZENS'ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri (not Weds) 9.30am - 11.30am (Wed 4-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, Station Road 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999. Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999. Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130. Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 700111. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline, 01446 700111.

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The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090. For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of

Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Armistice Day is marked with Merchant Seamen's memorial tribute in Barry

A LARGE crowd assembled on Armistice Day (November 11) at the Merchant Seamen's Memorial in Barry.

A two-minute silence and wreath-laying ceremony honoured those who died in both world wars and in more than 70 other conflicts.

Members of the pub-

lic and representatives of organisations, including the local branches of the Royal British Legion and the Merchant Seamen's Association. joined Vale councillors, officers and staff as

bugler Emma Lehman sounded The Last Post and Reveille.

Wreaths were laid by Vale Mayor, Coun Emlyn Williams, students from Barry Comprehensive School, representing local young people, council leader Coun Gordon Kemp, Labour, Plaid and Independent group leaders Couns Neil Moore, Nic Hodges and Gwyn John respectively, chief executive John Maitland Evans, Wing Commander Lyndon Jones, of MoD St Athan, Lieut Commander Neil Pugh, executive officer



representatives of the Barry branches of the Merchant Navy Association (Wales) and Royal British Legion. The Rev Malcolm Davies led the prayers.

ABOVE: Coun Emlyn Williams lays a wreath during the Armistice Day ceremony at the Merchant Seamen's Memorial in Barry.

Couple's 17-day Poppy marathon

TWO of the great stalwarts of the Poppy Appeal in Barry are Graham and Barbara Davies.

In recent years, the couple have become a familiar and popular sight in Waitrose food store.

Graham, aged 76, who is originally from Pembroke and served in the Artillery, said: "Each year, we come to Waitrose to do the collection and we are always treated just like members

Barbara added: "It's brilliant here – the staff are so helpful and the public are happy to respond to the appeal."

For 17 days up until Wednesday, November 11, the couple were at their specially-erected stand receiving donations and placing poppies on



ABOVE:

As Remembrance Day approaches each year, Graham and Barbara Davies are a familiar sight to shoppers in Barry.

Local schoolgirl suffered 70 per cent burns after using unmanned salon

FROM PAGE 1)

Kirsty put £1 into the coin-operated supped at busy high street, but after four minutes, felt she wasn't getting tanned enough, so paid £3 for another 15 minutes

A court heard that the fashion-conscious teenager left the salon in pain and was rushed into hospital four hours later, suffering from horrific

She was put on a drip and given oxygen, while doctors rehydrated her administered and painkillers.

Prosecutor Reynolds said: "Lextan was an unmanned salon and would open at 7.30am by a timed lock and would close at 9.30pm. For the majority of that 14 hours the salon was not manned at all.

"Customers allowed access to the tan-ning equipment, includadvice or information mended times. from a member of staff. Mark Ower from a member of staff. Mark Owen. defend-Customers would be ing, said: "Mr Hadley completely unsuper- has an entrepreneurial

officers from the Vale extremely well received.

2 Mango Chutney

This offer is not valid in conjunction with

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Council visited the salon

16s using his equipment but said it was their own and safety responsibilirisk if they ignored warning signs.

sold out.

scholarship from the use them." Welsh Assembly The co Government to study Health economics and management at University.

The court heard that by Kirsty.

after graduating, he District Judge John opened his chain of Charles said Hadley had Neath, was released on salons, attracting up to a "cavalier approach" to bail until next month. 1,000 customers a week.

Mr Hadley admitted making a false statement to council officers, failing to assess a young were employee, failing to proallowed access to the tan-ning equipment, includ-ing the sunbeds, without and operating the being able to access machines beyond recom-

sed." spirit – his concept and Environmental health business model was

"He is a young busito meet the various requirements of the Mr Hadley accepted requirements of the there was a risk of under-council. He's not someone who takes his health ties lightly.

Barry magistrates unmanned tanning salons your culpability rather court heard health and safety officers tried to because they are cases."

buy a £2 pair of goggles unmanned. Customers buy a £2 pair of goggles unmanned. Customers In the salon – but it had of their own free will. to be dealt with by a fine Idd out.

There is no obligation on and he ordered a pre-senthellely was given a the public to walk in and the creport.

Headled: "These tenem."

He added: "These tenem."

The court heard the offences – the combined

after Kirsty was badly nessman who has done He told him: "The public burned in February last his very best in seeking have to be protected, particularly young persons, and you have to be punished.

"In my view, these offences are at a high level of seriousness and "Many customers of there are issues that make

to study Health and Safety seriousness of them – I manage- Executive has issued warrant at least a comfresh guidelines, following the injuries suffered possibility of a sentence of interest and community penalty or the possibility of a sentence of interest and the control of the control of

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Gladstone pupils pay respects to war dead





ABOVE: Two-minute silence at Gladstone Primary School.

IMAGES

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their clients a

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* * and a *

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*

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AS well as selling and wearing poppies in the weeks leading up to Armistice Day, children and staff at Gladstone Primary made their own poppies and wreaths to place on the Gladstone School war memo-

This lists the former pupils of Gladstone who died during the Great War and is proudly displayed on the wall of the school building.

At 11am on November 11, representatives from

At 11am on November 11, representatives from each class gathered around the war memorial to lay the poppies and to observer a two-minute silence to remember those who lost their lives in war.

Throughout the school,, all the children were

Throughout the school,, all the children were silent for two minutes, while the year-3 class paid their respects at Barry Cemetery in a service of Remembrance held by the British Legion.

Close battle in camera contest

THE Positive Image Photographic Society (PIPS) meeting for November 12, the annual 'battle' with friendly rivals Caerphilly, proved to be a suspensefilled evening.

The judge, Phil Ray provided concise and pertinent evaluations of 40 images, 10 prints and 10 projected digital images from each club, all of which were of a very high standard.

very high standard.
The final results,
Caerphilly (339) and
Positive Image ahead by
a mere three points with
342, out of a maximum
possible score of 400,
speak for themselves as
to the quality of the
images entered.

The speaker for November 26 is Dave Russell, an image educator, who loves sharing his professional skills with amateur photographers.

Positive Image Photographic Society meets at 7.30pm on alternate Thursday evenings at St Baruc's Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island. New members will be made very welcome.

Further details of the club and forthcoming events including forthcoming competition details, are on the societies website at www.positiveimagebarry.org.uk.

RHOOSE REMEMBERS...



THE
Remembrance
Day procession
started at Rhoose
Post Office on
November 8 and
proceeded through
the village to the
War Memorial at
the community

centre.
The Rev David
Treharne conducted
the service, which
began with the reading of the rolls of
honour of the
parishes of Penmark
and Porthkerry, the
Exhortation spoken
and the Last Post
sounded.

A two minutes silence was observed.

Wreaths were laid before the War Memorial and the Welsh and British National Anthems

The service then took place inside the community centre.

ABOVE: A number of veterans marched in the parade at Rhoose on Remembrance Sunday.



ABOVE and BELOW: There were representatives from many bodies, including women's groups and young people's organisations.



WHATS ON AROUND THE VALE - in brief

Billboard

panto

AS reported earlier, BillBoard Ensemble are staging Aladdin as this year's traditional, family pantomime at the Memorial Hall Theatre, Barry, this week.

Sunday performances on November 19, 20, at 2.30pm. Telephone 01446 401822 for full details.

Churches

bazaar

all Theatre, Barry, this week.
There are also Saturday and
St Cadoc will be holding their

annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday, November 21, in St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, starting at 11am.

There will be various stalls, including cakes, craft, jew-ellery, bottles, toys, tombola and bric-a-brac. Entrance fee

News from 372 (Barry) Squadron

Air Cadets remember the fallen



Cadet Adam Wood places a poppy on a war grave at Barry cemetery.

Belgium and France.

cemeteries.

sailors

The

assisted

Their trip included

visits to the Ypres Salient

and Somme battlefields

as well as memorials and

"I went on the recent

which these soldiers.

and

Cadets

were

airmen

who

RECENTLY, Air Cadets have recently Cadets from 372 returned from a trip to (Barry) Squadron. remembered the 110 fallen Barry soldiers the World from Wars; by laying a cross of remembrance on each of Pemberton said: their graves.

The event was co-ordinated by Phyllis Wells who has tended to the war graves for the last 60 years

She paid tribute to the Air Cadets for their assistance and for paying their

This year was all the and more poignant as the Wood

Air Cadets' £800 Poppy sale boost

AIR CADETS from Stacey Pitcock, Dave Hillard, Rhys Thomas, 372 (Barry) Squadron have again supported the **Royal British** Legion this year raising £800 through selling pop-

The Cadets were recently a familiar sight at Tesco's in Barry. The top fundraising Cadet this year was Stacey Pitcock, raising £100 singlehanded.

Keith Harris from the Royal British Legion paid tribute to the Cadets saying: "I am pleased that the Air Cadets have again supported the Royal British Legion this year and have raised this magnificent sum of money; which will help and support ex-service personnel in our commu-

nity."
Flight Lieutenant Jayne Hillard (Officer Commanding 372 Squadron) also commented: "I am immensely proud of these fine young men and women who have again worked hard to support the Peter

Royal British Legion.'
The Cadets who Pemberton, Adam Wood worked so hard were: Nathaniel Spragg, Megan Palmer-

Jon Spragg, Megan Palmer-Wood, Steph Blake, Ryan Morse, Eloise Johnson, Gemma Lewis, Megan Hamblin, Adam Wood and Paige Evans

While the Cadets enjoy the many and varied activities, which the Air Training Corps provide, the Cadets are also encouraged to give something back to 'their communities'.

The Cadets annually help and support the Royal Air Forces Association and Barry Hospital League of Friends.

If you have a spirit for adventure, 372 (Barry) Squadron has vacancies for young men and women between 13-18 years old. The Squadron parade on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7pm-9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall); or you can contact the Squadron on 01446 747734 or email 372@aircadets.org for more information about joining the Air Training

'Invest in **Bryneithin'**

TE as Vale of Council ward members for Dinas Powys, were invited to a formal statutory consultation with the director of social services, Mr Phillip Evans, on Monday, November 9.

We complied with the request to keep the information imparted to us as confidential until this week.

We immediately replied to the news received, as a group, with our objections to the recommendations.

The Dinas Powys Plaid members have always fought to keep the care home open.

We also sought to secure the future of the site to be used for the same purpose, in our roles as cabinet mem bers, in the previous coalition administration of the council

We do not feel that the case has been adequately made to close Bryneithin and we call on the Conservative cabinet to invest in the home and reno vate and refurbish the care home to current requirements

We also call upon the council to publish the detailed financial data used. to justify closure, for full public scrutiny.

The fight goes on.
Councillors V Hartrey, K Hatton, M Randall, CJ Williams, Dinas Powys

Meeting will decide the fate of **Bryneithin home**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Ms Hutt continued: "All options must be fully and openly considered. I am disappointed therefore, that the Vale Council appears to have chosen one of the options before relatives and representatives have had a chance to consider all of the options.

"In light of this, cabinet discus sions should be deferred to allow relatives, staff and all those with an interest in Bryneithin, time to fully consider the recommendations of this report, published last Friday.

"Relatives must be supported through this very distressing time and the staff at Bryneithin should be consulted and protected as well as the neighbouring Crossroads service.

Regional Assembly Member, Chris Franks, labelled the report "a whitewash" and said Bryneithin was a Vale social services success

story.

He told The GEM: "I regret to say that the Conservative-controlled council has for years wanted to shut this much-loved home.

"They have ignored the views of the community, relatives and the

home's record of care."

The Vale cabinet member for social and care services, Coun Dorothy Turner, pointed out that the social services department faced a great challenge to meet the growing need for services which help older people as they live longer and seek to remain as inde pendent as possible.

The Vale Council carried out a 12-week consultation into the

future of the home earlier this year. and Coun Turner explained: "We must make best use of the resources available but any change has to be made sensitively

"A considerable amount of work has been done in carrying out the consultation, conducting the review and developing these proposals.

"However, any decision about the home must be made by cabinet. The overall objective is to improve access and choice in respect of residential care services for older people with mental ill health and/or dementia.'

The director of social services, Phil Evans, com mented: "We know that relatives are very concerned about possible harm to their loved ones if they have to transfer to another home.

"In the event of closure, the health and wellbeing of the Bryneithin residents, and the need to ensure the best possible future care for them, will remain of paramount importance.

He added: "Individual needs will be fully assessed and we will ensure that our staff provide the support the residents and their families require.

"At the same time, the report contains proposals that will help to secure an immediate and sustained increase in the number of places available in the Vale of Glamorgan for people with dementia-type illnesses, in settings which are dedicated to catering for their additional needs."

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Chicken Curry & Rice
Chicken Curry & Chips
Chicken Curry & Chips
Chicken Curry
Curry & Chips
Gravy & Chips
Pot of Curry
Pot of Gravy
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Particle (4) Portion (4) £2.30 Kids Meal with

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SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN

Chicken Nuggets

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EXTRAS n Cocktails

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Free 1.5 Ltr Coke on non Meal Deal Orders over £12.00

DEALS

piece of Southern Fried Chicken, Chips & Can £2.40

3 pieces of Southern Fried Chicken, Chips & Can £3.30

5 pieces of Southern Fried en, 2 Chips & Lowes Bottl £7.40

FAMILY PACK
10 pieces of Southern Fried
Chicken, 3 chips, 1.5ltr Coke,
pot of coleslaw or beans £12.50

MEGA PACK 15 pieces of Southern Fried Chicken, 4 chips, coleslaw & beans, 1.5ltr Coke, £17.50

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email

address alone is not sufficient. We will (in certain circumstances), protect a writer's

identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor,

Vale on the Road shows had

Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Selection method based on merit?

T was good to own record and wondering why they have only see that Ms Alana Davies finally got her chance to respond to her critics in last week's GEM; but this is not what will have made the most impact on your

months. I have watched incredulously from the sidelines as misogynistic local Tories queued up to try to discredit Mrs Davies, even before she was selected as the Labour candidate to replace John Smith, MP.

First the focus was on the Labour Party's selection procedure, a matter which, I would venture to suggest, is no one's business except the Labour Party's.

readers in recent

The Conservatives would be far better occupied in looking at their

ago, I was genuinely undecided about which way to vote in the next general election - until

> tlemen have helped me make up my mind. If they represent the alternative, Ms Davies can count on my vote Deborah Fisher, Colwinston

M I alone in being sick of hearing stories about people who are just too nice, being bullied by people in public services?

They are supposedly there to provide a service but, unfortunately, as paedophiles work their way into working with children, bullies levitate

18 female MPs out of a total of 193. Do they honestly believe that this is an indication of a party that selects its candidates 'on merit'? Apparently frustrated

at having failed to influence their opponents' internal procedures, they are now lining up to find fault with every word uttered by Ms Davies.

Having myself resigned from the Labour Party 10 years the beginning of this spiteful letter campaign.

These loquacious gen-

majority of people we met. This was pleasing as we hoped residents would find this type of event more accessible than the previous formal 'State of Area Debates'.

Readers

It was also the first time we have held such events on a Saturday, rather than in the

evening. We will take all the feedback we have received into consideration when planning the next 'Vale on the Road'.

Our officers are working their way through all

place on Saturday, December 5, ahead of the crucial UN climate

Copenhagen. It is hoped the march

will send a strong mes-

sage to world leaders

demanding a safe and

fair deal on climate change to help protect

the world's poorest peo-

change talks in

the comment cards that were received. If you requested a response, this will soon be on its way to you. We also plan to pro-

vide a round-up of the

good feedback for council discussions at the events. on the council website, in the near future. Coun Gordon Kemp (Leader, Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Questions of belief

FEEL I must reply to Diane Mîtchell's belligerent and blinkered letter on paganism v Christianity in last week's GEM.

She somehow sees the Vatican and the Pope as the pontification of the Christian Church, which

she readily criticises. There is, however, a Christianity that I know. as a born-again believer, as having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus, as many people forget, died on a cross for our

Ms Mitchell is quick to exalt Halloween as a pagan festival. However, October 31 is also marked as a devil-worship, where in some parts of the world little children were sacrificed.

We all have a free will to choose what we believe in and I'm glad that I have that freedom to choose and also to stand up for what I believe in. Bob Nash, Barry

Clear up dogs' mess

LEASE can the owner(s) of the dog(s) who persistently allow their pet to foul the pavements in Welford/Clifton and Canon Street, West End, Barry, do the decent thing and remove the faeces from the pavement, so we do not have to remove it from our carpets and toddlers' shoes etc? Thank

No change in planning policy

HE article regarding Coun Nic Hodges' campaign gives the impression that the Vale Council has recently changed its policy regarding speaking at planning committee meetings

This is not correct; the policy has not changed since I was elected to the council in 1999 and, as far as I am aware, since Coun Hodges' election before then.

months that Coun Hodges has raised this issue. Why did he not do so when he was a member of the coalition administration, particu-larly as his Plaid Cymru colleague, Chris Williams, was the cabi-net member for planning and no doubt would have been sympathetic to his views?

He is now asking the Assembly to ignore the council's decision and impose his views on it.

This seems to smack of socialist central control over democratic local decision-making. fore then. Coun Gordon Kemp
It is only in the last 12 Leader, Vale Council

'Show support for town appeal

NOTE from recent reports in The GEM that Alun Cairns AM is playing an active part in the flooding issues at Llantwit Major; however, Mr Cairns has not come out with support for saving a very much needed facility in the town – the cashier's office, which his Conservative colleagues on the Vale Council intend to close.

If Mr Cairns has the interests of people at heart, he will support them - and show his support by taking up the case to save the cashier's office, by making his views known to the Conservative cabinet on the council.

Come on Mr Cairns, if you claim to support people in Llantwit Major, this is your chance to show them

I am sure you will be looking for their support next year in the parliamentary election Coun Ğwyn John, Llantwit Major

We welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

Name the bullies

towards these positions. You may say that public service workers get a lot of abuse - but not from the sort of people I am talking about, because they are thoroughly decent.

However, some of the people I know who work in public services are not nice people at all, truth be known and should be named and shamed. Lisa Franklin, Barry

'Wear blue for climate march' 'The Wave' will take

AY I. through vour newspaper, urge all your readers who care about our environment to take part in the biggest climate change march ever seen in the UK.

thank all the

-residents who

came along to the

Road' events in

Penarth.

recent 'Vale on the

Barry, Rhoose and

members, including myself, and our officers

enjoyed meeting the resi-

of local people first-hand is extremely useful to us.

The new, informal

was popular with the

style 'Vale on the Road'

dents. Hearing the views

The council's cabinet

For more information. log onto www.stopcli-matechaoscoalition.org Coun Rob Curtis,

(Name and address supplied)

VALE of GLAMORGAN

GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

Temporary Road Closure Order, Section 16A BRO MORGANNWG Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984

THE VALE OF

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS KINGS SQUARE, BARRY Saturday 28th November 2009

Order Under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulations Act For the prevention of obstruction etc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS the Vale of Glamorgan Council as Highway Authority is satisfied that traffic on the streets or parts thereof as listed in column 2 of the Schedule should on 28th November 2009 be restricted to enable the holding of a relevant event, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, HEREBY ORDERS AND DIRECTS in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulations shall be

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof listed in schedule 1 shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the schedule.

The penalty for infringement of this regulation is a fine not exceeding $\mathfrak{L}1,000$.

SCHEDULE 1

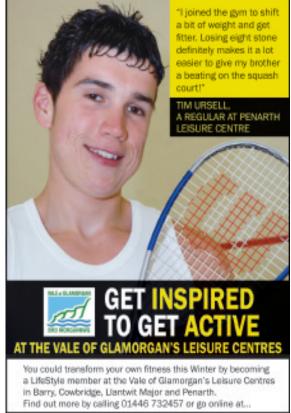
Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 28th November 2009	The area to be closed is Holton Road, Barry from its junction with Ty-Newydd Road to a point 50m east of its junction with Llantwit Street	18.00 - 19.30

Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times.

Dated this 19th day of November 2009.

M Punter, Head of Visible Services, Vale of Glamorgan Council, The Alps, Wenvoe CF5 6AA.





WWW.VALEOFGLAMORGAN.GOV.UK/LIFESTYLE

The 'too weak to walk' benefits cheat who ran in Cardiff Race for Life

A BENEFITS cheat was filmed running Mr Crowther said: was filmed running the Race For Life with thousands of other women in Cardiff Castle despite claiming more than £20,000 for being 'too weak to walk'

Susan Hutchinson (56) of Barry, fiddled disability cash, saying it took her 15 minutes to walk 100 yards because of asthma, joint pain and a weak bladder.

Cardiff Crown Court heard fraud investigators caught her on video camera smiling as she ran around the 5km course in her jogging

Prosecutor Tom Crowther said: "She fin-ished in an hour and a half – a far cry from her disclosure saying she could walk 100 yards in no less than 15 minutes. If this was true, the circuit would take her no less than 13 hours

Undercover officials from the Department of Work and Pensions also filmed her on a gruelling workout in a women-

only gym.
The court heard she led a double life - one as invalid Susan Hutchinson, crippled with pain – and the other as Susan Johnson, a

superfit gym member working 12-hour shifts. Prosecutor Tom Crowther said: "She used two identities to fraudulently claim more

than £23,000. "Hutchinson also used the surname of Johnson and by that name she was active, healthy and was habitually at the local gym in the early morning. She also worked 12-hour shifts in a care home.

"By her first name of Hutchinson she was known by the DWP and local council as crippled by disability and unable to live any existence." She started claiming

disability living allowance three years ago saying she was

She said she could barely walk through dizziness, she couldn't shop and was in no fit state to carry a bag of shopping. She claimed she could fall and stum-

ble at any point." Cardiff Crown Court heard that the benefits fraud investigators began probing her case after a tip-off.
Mr Crowther said:

They watched her leave her home before 7am to go to the local gym. They followed her inside and watched her do a comprehensive circuit of the machines available for over an hour, not hampered by dizziness joint pains nor her blad-

der.
"She would then go shopping to Morrisons, parking in the disabled bay, and undertake a leisurely shop.

Mother-of-three Hutchinson was filmed running the 5km Race for Life this year in the grounds of Cardiff Castle.

Hutchinson admitted six charges of fraud and two of theft, totalling £23,238,16.

Susan Ferrier, defending, said: "This isn't a woman living the life of luxury, with sports cars and designer clothes. She lives in a council house with her son

"Her husband had left her with many debts. Judge Peter Roach sentenced her to eight

weeks' jail, but suspended it for 15 months. He said: "These offences illustrate a deliberate and determined course of conduct where you fraudulently

claimed over £20,000. The court heard she has begun repaying the money she claimed in

income support, rent and disability living allowance.

A spokesman for the DWP said: "She fraudulently claimed more than £23,000 in benefits, including income support and disability living allowance.

"This is reserved for the most severely disabled members of socie ty, who are either unable to walk, or virtually unable to walk '

DWP fraud investigator Jane Griffiths was among the runners and filmed Hutchinson smiling as she tackled the run

Miss Griffiths said: "I filmed her among the crowd and I later challenged her, when she admitted taking part in

Vale school a 'shining example' to the others

YSGOL Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry was named as the region's top school when it comes to the use of technology, at Becta's ICT Excellence Awards 2009.

The prestigious accolade of 'Best Whole School' is awarded to just one

school in the region annually.

The Vale's only Welsh-medium comprehensive beat off stiff competition to collect the award at Bristol's newest science venue, At-Bristol, on November 19

Teaching staff had to demonstrate they have successfully placed technol-ogy at the heart of both learning and

wider school management.

By helping to enhance teaching and bringing lessons to life, the school has shown clearly how technology makes a difference, not just in the classroom, but at home within the family, and across other school activities.

Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg impressed the judges by its collaboration with a local company to develop a high-tech system that allows teachers to assess, track, record and set targets for students to help them fulfil their potential.

Stephen Crowne, chief executive of Becta, said: "We believe that integrating technology across the entire curriculum – not just using it in ICT lessons – is essential to higher achievement in schools and it makes lessons and learning more enjoyable and

rewarding.
"The ICT Excellence Awards are a fantastic way to show just what can be achieved to boost the achievements of young people using technology. It is a great pleasure to reward the hard work of all schools that entered.
"Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg is a

shining example of what can be done.
"Becta is committed to helping

schools achieve similar results so that all learners have the opportunity to get the most from their time at school.

On winning the award, Dilwyn Owen, ICT subject leader at Bro Morgannwg, said: "We are delighted to have won the award and it is an honour to be the first Welsh-speaking

school to have done so.
"The achievement of a national award confirms that our commitment and investment in ICT is having a huge impact on the opportunities we offer our pupils. It also reflects the dedication shown by all our staff in embracing ICT.

"We would like to thank all the teachers at Bro Morgannwg for their willingness to embrace ICT, the pupils for pushing the boundaries and wanting more from ICT, the parents for their support in all that we have done and the governors for the financial guidance to make it all work."

Strands by Shelley, Pencoed



Strands of Pencoed, is under new ownership. Strands of Pencoed, is under new ownership. It has had a great refurbishment in a vibrant contemporary style. Strands by Shelley, situated in the heart of Pencoed, welcomes Bunty (formerly of Cowbridge) to the team. They also welcome back Michelle, who has returned from maternity leave. Strands by Shelley has a fully equipped beauty room and spray tan room which will be open from Monday, 23rd November. Book an appointment today and our professional and friendly staff will cater for all your hairdressing needs. needs.

Dee would like to thank all her clients for their support over the last 12 years and wishes Shelley every success in her new venture - "I hope that all our clients will support her.

Strands by Shelley, Pencoed



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Christmas Events 2009

BARRY TOWN CENTRE

CHRISTMAS ON THE SOUARE

King Square, Saturday 28 November, 12noon to 6pm

A free fun-packed event which will include street entertainers, fire jugglers and a live music stage featuring; Impulse 11, All that Jazz, Railroad Bill, RAF St Athan Brass Band, Shooting the Moon and Mabon. Don't miss the new real Christmas tree on the Square that will be lit up at 5pm.

SANTA'S GROTTO

Central Park, Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 December 10am - 4pm on Saturday and 10am - 3pm on Sunday

Meet Santa in his log cabin grotto, listen to festive live music from Samba Galez and the RAF St Athan Band, and marvel at the Christmas Street Entertainers. £3 per child (includes a gift).

BARRY ISLAND

WINTER WONDERLAND

From Saturday 5 December to Sunday 3 January 2010

Barry Island Square will be hosting a festive open air ice rink for the first time ever this Christmas. The synthetic ice rink will be open daily from 2pm to 8pm midweek outside of the school holidays and from 12noon to 8pm during the school holidays and weekends. Skating costs £3 per adult and £2.50 per child. Don't miss this unique experience of skating by the seaf

FESTIVE TRAINS

Saturday 5, 12 & 19 December, from 11am to 4pm

Travel in style to the Winter Wonderland! 'Barry Rail Centre - Tourist Railway' will be running a Christmas themed diesel train from the Good Shed Waterfront Station to the Barry Island Station. Free parking will be available at the Good Shed site. Cost will apply for travel and ticket includes refreshments.

For further details please call the Vale of 704737 or go online at www.visitthevale.com



MISS WALES GOES BA TO HER OLD SCH



MISS Lucy old (Holton Primary) learn all about their lives before jetting off to in South Africa." South Africa for the Miss Pageant.

children were delighted to meet Lucy, and had prepared letters for her to take out to a school in Johannesburg.

"We have a 'round the Foundation."

WALES, world pen pal initiative Whitehouse and, hopefully, we will of Barry, has visited have a good response school from the children and

Lucy commented World "The year-4 pupils were wonderful and keen to She was welcomed by find out all about my role headmaster Andrew as Miss Wales. I am Gilbert who said: "The looking forward to returning to the school in the New Year to work with the children raising funds for The Joshua

ABOVE:

Miss Wales (Lucy Whitehouse) is pictured during her visit to Holton Primary, with year-4 pupils and head Andrew Gilbert.

AM's airport jobs fear

FOLLOWING news that low cost airline bmibaby is to reduce operations around the UK, Vale AM Jane Hutt, has expressed concern for the future of Cardiff Airport and for those who may be facing redundancies.

"I was very sorry to hear about these losses a our airport, especially given the extensive list of destinations offered by bmibaby airline from Cardiff. I hope that discussions with staff and union representatives at the airport will help min imise job losses," she said this week.

Roadworks report

Pontypridd Street junction with Mount Pleasant, Barry - footway restriction in place. Church Road, Bridge Street, Cowbridge Street, Barry - traffic barriers in place; carriageway width restric-

Buttrills Road, junction with Broad Street, Barry - temporary traffic control.

Weston Square tunnel. Cardiff Road, Barry ongoing road closure

an expenses audit ABOUR'S parliamentary candidate for the Vale, Alana Davies, has pledged Parliament, each year she will pay pocket for an independent audit of

Labour candidate

pledges to pay for

Alana Davies.

"People are rightly con-cerned about politicians" expenses. I am committed to being totally transple here in the Vale to see for themselves how I parent. That's why I'm spend taxpayers' money. each year I will pay out making the commitment of my own pocket for an audit, independent of Parliament, of my parlia-Parliament, as well as publishing online details

ducting the independent audit believes that I am guilty of financial misconduct, the matter will be referred to the new Commissioner for Parliamentary Investigations, who will have the power to investigate allegations of misse of parliamentary allowances.

"I hope that this will help to demonstrate that interests revolve solely around the people in the Vale, and representing them in Westminster, and that I will be open and honest with them at all times, Mrs Davies added.

Tory candidate wins top business award

 \mathbf{E} \mathbf{L} Conservative AM and Vale parliamentary candidate, Alun Cairns has been presented with an award for the greatest contribution in supporting business in south Wales, at the South Wales Business Awards.

that if elected to

out of her own

her expenses.

that, if elected to

Alana Davies said:

The award ceremony was held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, and nominations were made and voted on by businesses across south Wales. The event was south hosted by BBC presenter,



Alun Cairns picks up his award.

Sara Edwards. Mr Cairns said: "All cials I've done is try to put a bit of WD40 here and a the ones who take all the

from Ministers and offi-

bit of oil there to try and risks. They are the ones push bureaucracy along, bring different people create prosperity, and together and get answers provide jobs."

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Swine flu message to priority groups is get vacccinated!

THE number of swine flu cases is gradually rising in Wales as we experience the second wave of the pandem-

The vast majority who catch the virus should recover within five to seven days with rest, plenty of fluids and paracetamol.

However, there are groups of people who are more likely to suffer from severe symptoms or complications from the virus, and in some cases even death.

The priority groups are those with chronic conditions, those in the seasonal flu vaccine atrisk groups, people with compromised immune systems and pregnant women

Household contacts of people with compromised immune systems
– for example, people in regular close contact with patients on treat-ment for cancer – are also being prioritised for vaccination.

The vaccine will pre-

vent those most at risk from potentially devel-oping severe illnesses from the virus.

The vaccine has been

tested and licensed in the normal way and is the safest, simplest and most effective way of protecting people's health from the swine flu virus.

The vaccination programme will take a few weeks to roll out. Once

REMINDER

Both the Cowbridge surgeries (Dr Jones and Dr Jemmett) are now receiving regular sup-plies of pandemic (swine) flu vaccine.

Under-65s in 'at risk' groups are encouraged to contact their surgery for

an appointment.
Over-65s who have not yet had their normal annual seasonal flu vaccine are also reminded to contact their surgery

by DR TONY JEWELL Chief Medical Officer for Wales

your local GP practice receives supplies of the vaccine, they will contact those in the priority groups to invite them to be vaccinated at their

surgery.

If you are not sure
whether you are in a priority group, you can find out more at www.direct.gov.uk/swine flu or by calling the swine flu information line on 0800 1 513 513. If this is still not clear, contact your GP prac-

tice.

We are also vaccinational and social care workers to ensure that we continue to care for the most vulnerable people in the community.

Once the vaccine has been given to those in the priority groups, it will then be offered to more people. We are currently discussing who should be included in the next phase of the

vaccination programme as supplies become available.

It is important to stress that the swine flu vaccine is different from the seasonal flu vaccine that's offered every

The seasonal flu vaccine does not protect against swine flu and vice versa.

People who are usually advised to have the seasonal flu vaccination should have it. They may also be offered the swine flu vaccine as well.

The seasonal flu and the swine flu vaccines can be given at the same time.

Vaccination is the best way to ensure protection for yourself, and others, from flu, That's why I'm urging all those who are in a priority group to get vaccinated

Mayor gives the Sparks children's charity a 'fantastic' caffeine boost!

trying to form a local committee, has benefited from a coffee morning hosted by Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams.

Anyone interested in helping to form a Vale committee can contact community fundraiser (Wales) Nia Williams on 07852 451111, or visit their website www.sparks.org.uk
Nia said: "We are seeking to form a local com-

mittee, so would like to say a huge thank you to Coun Williams for allowing us to benefit from the

coffee morning.
"We raised a fantastic £224, which will help babies to be born healthy and stay healthy. The money is helping Sparks to be there for the children and families who need us now and in the future.

Life Savers' AGM

THE Llantwit Major Surf Life-Saving Club is holding its annual general meeting on Monday, December 7, at 7.30pm, in the clubhouse at Llantwit Major beach. All are welcome.



Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams and the mayoress, his wife, Joan, with Nia Williams, community fundraiser (Wales) for Sparks, and former international soccer referee Clive Thomas, one of the charity's celebrity supporters.



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BARRY MEN'S FORUM NEWS

Mixed memories from Roger's stroll on the Great Wall

A VIVID illustrated ing to negotiate steps at an incline of some 70 talk was given last week by Barryborn Roger Evans, who took part in a gruelling walk for charity over a large section of the Great Wall of China.

This structure covers some 4,500 miles and parts of it demand considerable stamina and a determination to over come vertigo from walk-

Roger traversed precipitous sections that needed a hard climb to reach and, at times, found himself 7,000 feet above sea-level and hav-

This huge project was incredibly well engineered in the 14th Century and has survived many earthquakes.

It is interesting to note that the Ming Dynasty was producing bricks for use in the wall of incredible hardness at a time when, in the west, only cut stone blocks were of comparable strength.

At times, the 60 chariwalkers lived in some of the renovated forts near the wall, that were originally manned by the Chinese soldiers who were there to repel

invaders. Conditions in some of these were not pleasant and further tested the stamina of the hikers

Mr Evans finished his talk by describing some of the other parts of this vast country that he saw on this visit. He made it clear that memories of the huge disparities in wealth that he saw in this heavily regulated communist state will be

with him for a long time He found huge pollution existing side by side with huge beauty.

Wherever he went he was constantly accosted by young people who vanted to practise their English on him.

The charity that bene fited from the efforts of those involved was the St David's Foundation. which aims to help cancer sufferers by giving help in the home

Today, (November 19), our speaker is Roger Sellick, whose subject is 'An exercise in looking'. Meetings are held every Thursday at 10.30am.

For further informa tion, telephone 029 2059

WHAT'S ON

- in brief Vintage fair A 'Love Vintage Fair being held on Saturday, November Wenvoe Community Centre, Port Road, Wenvoe, from 10am-4pm.

There will be stalls selling vintage brocante, jewellery, vintage fashons, fabrics and handmade items, made using vintage products.

There will be a tea room with a selection of teas, coffees and handmade cakes served on the finest vintage bone china.

For further information contact Maggie or Samantha on 07807 658101 or07870 490283

Valeways walks

November 1.30pm, Swanbridge to Lavernock. Start at Captain's Wife Inn, Swanbridge, Sully. Car park free.

Stamp fair
BARRY Philatelic
Society autumn fair
will be held at Highlight Community Centre, on November from 10am-4.30pm.

Stamps, postcards, and postal history. Admission 50p. For more details call 01446

Thank you for saying you saw it in The GEM PENARTH COMPUTER CLUB NEWS

Will Windows 7 be the spur for everyone to modernise?

hot topic at the moment and the reactions are gener-

ally promising.

Do you care? Maybe not, but you will have to come to a decision sooner or later.

Windows XP still works, of course, and so does Windows Vista, but I suspect that pretty soon you will come across enthusiastic Windows 7 users who will ask why you have not yet adopted it. Will you have an answer?
It is already quite

clear that Windows 7 is an improvement on Vista, Microsoft changed the arrangement of expertise in the design teams so that they cross fertilised their ideas to produce something more in line with how the users preferred to work, rather than what is convenient for the designers

to design – and it shows.

There are more happy people using Windows XP than using Vista. A recent magazine survey shows that 40 per cent of Windows XP users intend to stick with it as long as possible. (That is in spite of it being officially discontinued on June 30, 2008; full sup port closing on April 14, 2009 and the residual

support ceasing in April 2014.)

There will always be early adopters who want new stuff now and will buy it even if they don't actually need it. They love to be at the cutting edge. Be a bit careful before you criticise their enthusiasm.

They might have perfectly good reasons to go for it straightaway, just as one might get a larger car or a bigger house as the family expands. It might well be that they are desperate to consign their Vista operating system to the bin with a

sigh of relief.
They have probably been using the RC (Release Candidate) version of Windows 7 and need no further convinc-

For everybody else it is a fair argument that if your present system does all that you want it to do there is little reason to change yet.

There is no point in buying a new operating system just because it is there. However, if you decide not to update. saying that you don't need to upgrade might be interpreted as: "I do nothing exciting enough to need the new features." So, you might feel that you need a better reason if you want to keep your street cred. Here are a few rea-

sons that will not make you look like a Luddite to avid updaters:

• 'I'm comfortable

with what I have.' You will have lots of company if vou use XP, but might have to justify yourself if you use Vista.

• 'I am too busy.'

Don't bluff with this one it could mean that you are so slow that it will take you ages to do what the early adopter knows shouldn't take long because the install programme does the work 'I always wait for

at least the first service pack.' This implies that you are far too smart to waste any time tweaking the system to make it work if it is not perfect. straight out of the box. This will be acceptable for around three months. by which time either a service pack will be in the offing or the system will have proved so sta-ble that you will have to find another excuse.

• 'I'm thinking about

enrolling at the Open University.' This is smart: a student is able buy Windows 7 much more cheaply.

• 'I can't face it. I

will struggle on until I need a new machine that will have Windows 7

pre-installed.' Valid, but fairly long-term.

• 'I have a lot of

legacy files and I am going to sort them out; back them up once and for all and make a clean install of the new system.

The last one is my own reason. It works for me because it is high time that I got myself sorted out. I not only use XP, but I use the old Classic view of the menu structure. For me Windows 7 will be the spur to modernise

myself.

It will also take me so long that Service Pack 1 will probably have been issued by the time I am

ready.
HOWARD DESMOND

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YOUNG AND OLD STAND IN SILENCE TO PAY TRIBUTE AT THE BARRY CENOTAPH

ON Sunday, November 8, the people of Barry attended the Cenotaph and the memorial on Holton Road to pay their tribute to the men and women who sacrificed their lives to secure our freedom today. As you can see from Glyn Evans' photographs, all generations – young and old – were present to pay their respects.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting: e-mail glynevans01@tiscali.co.uk telephone 01446 773225. *Now open in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.















ABOVE: A poignant tribute to 'Our Joe, the fisherman'.





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The Christmas Charm of Cowbri



SPECIAL THREE PAGE GEM FEATURE

COWBRIDGE - AN OASIS OF CALM AMID THE CHRISTMAS FRENZY!

OR festive shoppersdreading the annual nightmare of having to battle through congested city centre stores, laid-back Cowbridge offers a stress-free solution to the Christmas frenzy.

The point about this historic Vale market town is that it does not exist simply to attract shoppers – although they, along with other visitors, are always made welcome.

It is a 'genuine' town, not some faceless adjunct to a large metropolis – where people live, work and go to school, and where a host of local organisations join together for the good of the community

For example, it has worked hard to preserve the timeless char

acter of its main street and to ensure that local shoppers and visitors are not confronted by the same old retail giants that dominate the scene elsewhere.

Instead, many of the shops are still owned and run by entrepreneurs, eager to put their personal stamp on their business by choosing stock that is notably different, or by offering services that are not always available elsewhere.

The result is that in Cowbridge every store is proud of its individual touch.

However, that impressive main street through the town is just the start as far as Cowbridge is concerned.

Some shops have developed backwards or upwards, so that many are a little like the Tardis - with so much to see behind a modest facade

alleys and walkways that spring from the main artery through the town like so many capillaries, offer a home to dozens more businesses, all offering some-

thing different. Wander down one side alley and you will find a range of arts and crafts; down another there will be distinctive Christmas gifts; in the next there will be a café or beer garden or a chocolatiere, or a fashion shop, or an antique specialist... The list goes on...
What is more,

because this mellow rural town lends itself to a meandering shop-ping experience, with no stress or time pres-sure, cafes, pubs and restaurants have all found it a great place to do business.

The businesses, in many ways, are interdependent, with each feeding off the success

PHILIP IRWIN extols the virtues of a town where community values still count

of the others. It is tempting to look at Cowbridge and say that it has all happened by accident, but that would be well wide of the mark. The retail shape of the town – and the fact that it is such a popular place to visit, is down to a number of key organisations.

The town council. for instance, is a body that sees the preserva-tion of Cowbridge's distinctiveness as its main priority. In some town councils, there is more than a little political infighting – but it is fair to say that Cowbridge is relatively

free of that.
There are, of course, different political par-ties represented on the council, but time is rarely wasted on point

scoring. Debates can be heated, but the point at issue is always whether the town will benefit from any project or plan.

Another organisation that works very hard for the town is the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade.

Again, there is precious little hand-wringing about the good old days, or moaning about supposed advantages given to rival traders

elsewhere. The focus of the organisation is on rais-ing the profile of the town, and on seeing what it can do to make things happen.

And, thanks to the chamber of trade, plenty of things do happen in the town... The annual reindeer day parade (just around the

November 29) has become an absolute must on the pre-Christmas calendar as young children get the chance to get close to a real live reindeer (and a real live Santa!). Things don't just

happen at Christmas time, of course. It is only a few weeks since the town was buzzing as it hosted its annual Food and Drink Festival – an event that has clearly gone from strength-to-strength in recent years.

Fashion Week, which moved this year from the spring to the autumn, is another popular event that both raises the profile of the town, and gives visitors something special to remember the town

by.
It was an event that was enthusiastically backed by chamber of trade members and, as a real bonus, it raised a sizeable amount of cash for Ty Hafan chil-

dren's hospice. Yet another group that has done great work for the town is the Cowbridge Charter Trust – and their achievements are impressive.

Those involved in the trust have used their expertise to identify areas in the town that are eligible for grant aid - and they then tackle the often labvrinthine task of satisfying the red tape requirements of grantawarding bodies

A current example of what they can achieve for the town, is the work that is currently under way on repairing the historic (but in parts delapidated) town walls.

However, the most impressive project, in which the trust was a key partner, has to be the town's physic gar-den, which has become

a peaceful haven in the bustling town, with its geometric gardens and a wealth of information about the medicinal qualities of the many plants to be found there.

Of course, community projects such as the physic garden come about through a number of partners working together, and Creative rural Communities, the Vale Council's body that funnels grant aid to the rural Vale had a big part to play in this.

Finally, the garden was able to be com-pleted – with a fountain, pergolas, and other items, thanks to sponsorship from local people and businesses who wanted to lend their own support again demonstrating the town's close sense of community.



A Fabulous Family Day . . . **COWBRIDGE Christmas Group - SUNDAY 29th November** is pleased to present

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Sunday 29th November - Show starts at 11am!

- Christmas tree festival at Holy Cross Church
- Aubrey Parsons sings 'Christmas Swing'
- Traditional Carols & Other Local Acts

Meet Santa in the Town Hall at 2 pm - reindeers on view. All this and shops will be open from 10am for Sunday Shoppers too!



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SPECIAL THREE PAGE GEM FEATURE

WIN A CHRISTMAS TREE!

THE GEM has teamed up with The tree! Downs Christmas Tree Centre to offer local children a chance to win the family a fantastic

real Christmas

The competition winners will be able to point to the magnificent Christmas centrepiece throughout the festive period and say: "I won

that!" The competition is for the best artwork of a each of four age groups: decorated Christmas tree in any form.. It could be a painting, poster, anything at all in two dimensions, or even

There is a prize in under-8, age nine-to-11, 12-15, and 16 and over. One entry per child will be accepted. Completed entries can

be posted in the competition box at The Downs Christmas Tree site, or at Amici in Cowbridge High Street.

Winning entries will be displayed at the Downs Christmas Tree

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 9.

The winner of each

section will be able to choose a Christmas tree to a maximum value of £40 on Saturday, December 12.

The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

THE Cowbridge Reindeer Parade, which this year

takes place on Sunday, November 29, has traditionally marked the launch of Christmas events and activities in the town - and this year is no excep-

Once the reindeer have returned home to the far north, there will be plenty more to see do in December.

tion.

However, the parade has established itself as an event that really gets ed, and it will be following the tried and tested format.

REINDEER PARADE WILL

LAUNCH A TRADITIONA

The chairman of the chamber of trade, Alun John, told The GEM: "There will be music from the stage outside the town hall from 11am - all leading up to the parade, which starts at noon.

The parade should return to the town hall by 12.45pm, and Santa will be saying a few words of welcome before retiring to his grotto to await visiting children.
The reindeer will be

in a pen behind the town

the young children excit- hall so that children can get a close-up look. Also, in the Arthur John car park, there will be a fair throughout the day

Throughout the afternoon, there will be a mixture of live acts and music on the stage, before the official switch-on of the town's Christmas lights, which this year will be carried out by TV newsreader

Lucy Owen, at 5pm. Alun John added: "I think this is an event that shows the town in a great light, with the chamber of trade and a range of voluntary organisations working

together.
"The chamber pays for the reindeer – it is our thank you to our customers, and the event is free. "There will be collec-

tors, but any donations will be distributed to Lions' charities.

Following on rapidly from the reindeer parade, traders are getting together to present a 'traditional shopping night' on Thursday, December 3.

Awen Evans of the chamber of trade told opening evening during the recent fashion week was a great success, so we are planning something similar – but with a Christmas flavour.

"Some shops will be offering mulled wine, and there should be a hot chestnut stall. Other shops are planning their own way of welcoming Christmas customers.

She said that the organisers were in the process of arranging a charity gift-wrapping service.

She added: "We want to recreate the atmos-phere of a really traditional Christmas shopping experience in the

Finally, throughout the month of December, the chamber of trade is throwing its weight behind a campaign to encourage as many

shops as possible to open on the Sundays. Alun John said; "We are really keen on making December special this year, and I am urging all traders to promote their business by joining us in opening.

We are back again at The Downs, Cowbridge from Saturday 28th November 2009 Huge selection of farm fresh handpicked low needle drop trees from 4ft to 20ft. Choose from Welsh-grown Fragrant Fraser trees, Celtic Nordmanns and Spruces. All trees are on display in full glory, in the undercover festive forest. Open 7 days a week from 8am until late every day. Telephone: 0781 3674 938 Situated behind Jay Fuel Station, opposite Mughal Emperor

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k and potato soup crusty bread and butter

A Christmas message from the town mayor

THE Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun Jon Harris, has extended a warm welcome to everyone visiting the town during the run-up to Christmas.

He said: "The town is

once again looking for-ward to Christmas and our celebrations start with the switching on of the lights on Sunday,

November 29. "Newsreader Lucy Owen will be our celebrity guest at the

switching-on."
Coun Harris welcomed all children to Cowbridge to see Father Christmas arrive in his sleigh, pulled by real reindeer. They go right through the town to give everyone a chance to see them and are a source of huge delight

After the parade, Father Christmas goes to his grotto at the Town Hall.

Coun Harris said that traders always put on a spectacular show at Christmas. He added: "Although

there's no doubt that some have found trading difficult lately, Cowbridge has stood up well and we look forward with increasing confidence to the future and to Cowbridge maintaining it s unique position in the Vale

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tmas Lunches w/c December 14th Ring to book 01446 771021

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Personal service makes all the difference!

thing of a cliché, but traders in Cowbridge reckon that the personal service they offer

does matter.

As the town gets ready for Christmas, traders told The GEM they are optimistic that Cowbridge will draw people in because of the quality and variety of

shopping on offer. Although the town is in direct competition with the big new stores just opening in Cardiff,

by JAYNE ISAAC

the view was that people have gone along to see what's on offer but have

"We offer personal service to our customers who cannot find it in the larger city centre depart-ment stores," said Emma Hartmann of High ociety and Havana. "We are fighting back

been unimpressed.

and the one thing that is key is the fact that we know many of our customers and can offer them a level of service which larger shops can-not match."

Emma, who is secretary of the Chamber of Trade, said that there was a buzz among traders who have been busy promoting the

wn.
"People are very positive. We have had a dif-ficult year but things are

definitely picking up. "Our events have been a success and our

next one will be the late night shopping on December 3, when all participating shops will be offering mulled wine and mince pies plus some live music to shop

pers.
"I know this will be a great evening for every-

From November 29. there will be Sunday opening in the town and it is hoped that more shops than ever will join in, so that visitors can enjoy a worthwhile

shopping experience.
"We also have some new shops opening up,' said Emma. "A new boutique has opened in Eastgate, which will help draw people up to that end of town and I know other empty premises have been taken over and are due to re-

Julie Union, manager of Colours, said that the

have started buying their party frocks but we are also getting people look-ing for wedding outfits, winter weddings seem

to be more popular."
Sue Marshall of the
Lois boutique said that she had been busy and trade was building up.

"People are buying party clothes, but also quite a lot of casual clothes, and knitwear is very big this year," she added.

"The town itself seems quite busy despite the awful weath-er we have had in the past few days. I am looking forward to Christmas.

"The boutique has been in Cowbridge for 40 years so it has weathered recessions in the past. I took it over two years ago."

Olwen Anderson, who wns the Celtic Knot Welsh gift shop, said that it had been a dread-ful year, but her business

up for Christmas. People been afraid of spending because of uncertainty about the economy but despite that, we have held our own.

"Things are picking up and people have started shopping for Christmas presents

The Chamber of Trade is now working with Creative Rural Communities to market Cowbridge and ideas being considered include encouraging more shop-ping trips to the town as

part of a tourism drive which would also benefit restaurants, hotels and attractions like the physic garden.

And it is hoped to get every business in the town to start its January sale on the same day that there can be a fullscale launch.

"If everyone has a sale together, we can market Cowbridge very effectively and draw in the bargain hunters," spokeswoman added.



Santa will soon be on his way to Cowbridge for the annual Reindeer Parade (see left for full details).

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HERE are

seemingly fewer direc-

tors that have such

a misanthropic atti-

Roland Emmerich.

delight in placing the human race in all kinds

of peril, from the alien

Independence Day to the

extreme weather condi-

tions of The Day After

His latest film, 2012.

is less a fictional account

of the London Olympics, and more about the

ancient Mayan prophecy

the titular year. John Cusack, Danny

Glover, Amanda Peet,

Chiwetel Ejiofor and

Woody Harrelson are among those who must

battle against the ele-

ments as the future of

the human race dimin-

God bless Roland Emmerich, While film

studios buckle under the

financial weight of pro-

movies that may or may

involved the director is

enowned for running a

tight ship, his films hav-ing smaller budgets than

Not that you would

know it from watching

dously reliant on effects

whole thing, but one that not only looks excellent,

but is also Emmerich's

about bringing a bom-bastic element to the

screen and here he

wreaks carnage on a

his previous works -

level unseen in any of

think the aliens blowing

up the White House in

Independence Day was

dramatic? Wait until you

see (ironically enough)

the USS John F Kennedy

go careering through the Oval office on the crest

of a tsunami: subtlety is

word Emmerich posi-

tively ignores.
Thankfully, he shows

being brash for the sake of it, allowing the

destruction on show to

THE Volunteer Bureau will hold an outreach surgery to offer advice and information on the 700+ different volunteering opportunities in the

The surgery at Rhoose Library, on Friday, November 20, is at 10am-12pm; the one at Cowbridge Library, on Saturday, November 21, is at 1,30nm. 20pm

COMPUTER CLUB

COMPUTER CLUB
THE next meeting of Penarth Computer Club is
on November 24, at 8pm, in All Saints Lesser
Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth. Mike F will be
showing Microsoft Publisher in use.
Visitors and new members are welcome. For
more information telephone Howard on 02920
408439.

to go beyond merely

time

strongest work in a long

The director isn't shy

2012, a film so stupen

that the slightest mis-

step could derail the

many other big event

ducing blockbuster

not recoup the costs

ishes at an alarming

invasion of

Tomorrow.

The German helmer

tude than that of

seems to take great

Thinking of starting your own business? | 9\\(\text{11}\) 1

Cowbridge group are on the look-out for THE Cowbridge- that can help young based group enterpreneurs make a group enterpreneurs make a group enterpreneurs make a complex of the comp

Creative Communities (CRC) specialises in making funding time to slow down, available for projthat ects improve the rural two!

give one example of its begin to contemplate highlight a project bring.

Rural start in business.

She wrote: CHRISTMAS is the can eat a mince pie or

Before you know it, The GEM asked the build up to the New Nia Hollins of CRC to Year begins, you may work, and she chose to what the year ahead will

A good cause for Christmas



National charities benefit from the card sales.

THE Cards for Good Causes shop in Cowbridge has opened its doors and is doing brisk

business.
The shop sells charity cards from a variety of national charities plus 'guest" local charities that each shop can choose itself.

The shop in Cowbridge is held in part of Old Hall and has its own door onto the

high street. One of those who organise this is Georgina Glover, who said that Old Hall had been very accommodating to the organisation over the

years. "We have our regular

where to find us," she said. "We also have a high profile because we have our board and ban-ner outside. We are having new people call in as well as long standing

The organisation donates 75p in every £1 to the charities involved, keeping the rest for overheads. All the staff are unpaid volunteers.

The shop is open Monday to Saturday from 10am-4pm and will trade until December 15.

"We have terrific support and take more money than many of the other shops in bigger towns," added Mrs Glover. "We are very grateful to everyone who uses our shop to buy

Rhoose burglary: police issue appeal

November 15, at a house on Readers Way in Rhoose.

The thief gained access to the house through an unlocked front door and left with a wallet and a mobile phone.

Detective Constable

Lee Davies of Barry CID said: "We have had reports of four young men in their

POLICE in the Vale have seen any suspicious are investigating a people in the area on burglary which Sunday night. We also occurred at around believe these four men 10.15pm on Sunday, travelled to and from the November 15 at a area in a motor car. area in a motor car.

"One of the men was wearing a grey hooded top with black horizontal stripes, the second was wearing a dark top with a single white stripe down each sleeve and the other two were also wearing dark coloured tops."

Anyone with informa tion about this incident is asked to contact Detective of lour young men in their late teens or early 20s who asked to contact Detect were seen in the vicinity of Constable Lee Davies Readers Way and Heol Barry CID on 01-Peartree in Rhoose. 731606 or anonymou "We would like to hear via Crimestoppers from anyone who may 0800 555 111. Constable Lee Davies at Barry CID on 01446 731606 or anonymously

BRO Radio and The Glamorgan GEM working together to bring you the very latest local news from your new community station, BRO Radio. n your new community station, BRO Radio.

Got a news story for us?

Then call us on 01446 420681, email: news@broradio.fm or contact the Glamorgan GEM on 01446 774484

that dream of being your own boss?

The 'Inspiring the Vale Bursaries' is a grant scheme to help the young people of the rural Vale set up in business.
Are you a budding

entrepreneur who has the ambition and drive to run your own business? Perhaps a friend or a member of your family has an idea to start up their own business?

Up to £3,000 is available to set up a business or community enterprise in the rural area. The bursaries are available to individuals or groups, to support full-time, parttime or even spare-time ventures.

All applicants must be aged 30 or below and either currently live, or

have lived in the rural

The project has received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, which is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Creative Rural

Communities is a regen eration and economic development initiative led by the Vale Council in partnership with vari-ous public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

To find out more about the scheme, contact Nia Hollins on 01446 775388 or email nhollins@valeofglamor-

MP calls for traffic lights on Barry road

VALE MP, John Smith, has called on the Vale Council to install traffic lights on Barry Docks Link Road to improve safe

Mr Smith told The GEM: "While the Vale Council has already taken some action to reduce the dangers on this vital road link, they should immediately commit some of their large financial reserves to install traffic lights at the dangerous junctions at Coldbrook Road East and Argae Lane. "For a Vale officer to

indicate that traffic lights could result in minor rear end shunts between cars at such a junction when there have been serious accidents at this junction is unbeliev-

Mr Smith said he sup-ported the work of local councillors Neil Moore, Anne Moore and Fred Johnson in highlighting

safety issues. He said: "The Vale Council had over £40 million in its reserves last year. Surely a set of traffic lights and a suitable roundabout would not reduce these reserves

to a dangerous level.
"If the council feels that it cannot spend its reserves, then why not cancel the proposed

Dinas Powys Bus Lane?
"There is strong local opposition to the bus lane from Dinas Powys Community Council, many local residents and

others.

"Recent reports to the council indicate that this scheme does not qualify for a transport grant and the officers are seeking alternative funding for this unwanted scheme. I believe saving lives on

Road is more important than helping a bus to keep to its timetable."

of £30,000 to introduce checks and a surveillance camera on the Docks Link Road.

"The cabinet also agreed a sum of £20,000 to undertake a study of the Coldbrook Road Eas and Argae Lane junctions to establish the options available to improve safety at these

The cabinet will be asked to consider the outcome of this study early next year and to take decisions on any

Mr Punter added: 'The bus lane works at improvements scheme at

the Barry Docks Link

Miles Punter, the Vale's head of visible services, told The GEM: "The council's cabinet recently allocated a sum a lay-by for police speed

particular locations.

funding implications.

the Merrie Harrier complete the junction this location. It would not be possible to use the funding required for the conclusion of this scheme to fund works on the Docks Link Road. This particular funding is provided by the Welsh Assembly Government. specifically in support of this scheme. VOLUNTEER SURGERIES that certainly comes with a second-hand, and somewhat silly, feel. He may make the

occasional mis-step here and there, with a slow pace post-blowing-everything-up and being unable to self-edit, with the film crashing in at the rather overlong time of 158 minutes; but amid the carnage he gives ample time to the human interest of the story.

Indeed, the director doesn't do a bad job in the quieter moments, giving his well puttogether cast the opportunity to do more than simply react to bangs that the world will end in and crashes.

Leading the pack are John Cusack and Chiwetel Ejiofor, the former bringing his laconic charm and dependability to a familiar and well worn role.

It's almost a staple of the genre to find a divorced dad reconnecting with his wife and/or children but Cusack takes a path well trodden and offers something, if not new, then certainly memorable enough to avoid falling into predictable cliché (apart from when the story demands of course!).

The latter brings a wonderful sense of gravity to the role as the man who knows just what is going to happen unless steps are taken, and delivers a turn that will hopefully give the talented Brit even more of a reputation, anchoring the film with a strong turn.

An array of support-ing actors all do a fine iob with varying amounts of screen time, Amanda Peet, Thandie Newton, Danny Glover and Oliver Platt (the latter particularly slimy as the film's concessionary villain) all giving good turns; but the real star of the show is the effects, and as superb as they are, the cast deserve credit for giving the film a little more depth than your average crash 'n' bang film.

Emmerich's script, coritten with his 10,000 BC partner in crime Harald Kloser, may eschew logic for storyline purposes (have no enough presence of mind fear, though the world may be on verge of collapse you can still use your mobile phones), but

Charity quiz
A CHARITY quiz
will be held in St
Hilary Village Hall,
this Friday (November 20) at

7.30pm.
Admission £7; a light supper will be provided. All proceeds to A Dignified Revolution www.dignifiedrevolution or uk.

tion.org.uk. For details contact Monica: 01446 775186; 07977 492926.

be married to a narrative follows the disastermovie template with flair, throwing in a clever update that Noah would certainly be proud of and giving the third

act a degree of momentum by switching to moral conundrum rather than have characters running away from yet another shifting landmass. Certainly, all the

SLICE OF DISASTER

ENTERTAINMENT!

ingredients are patently ludicrous, the visuals over the top, the characters and narrative turns clichéd and an overall feeling of bombast for the sake of it – yet Emmerich still manages to steer it into an end product that is undoubtedly entertaining.

Its cinematic worth may be nil, but ultimately what counts is whether or not a film can entertain at its most basic level – and 2012 manages that with

VERDICT – Daft, and Enjoyable.

SCREEN **TALK**



by GARETH **JAMIESON**

verging on the ludicrous, but no less entertaining for it, 2012 is another Roland Emmerich special, marrying bombastic (but perfectly rendered) visuals within the traditional genre template.

It loses points for a ponderous middle and bloated running time, but as a disposable piece of popcorn entertainment it's hard to argue with.

Henri says farewell to his flowing locks

A VALE student will soon be saying goodbye to a fine head of hair – and he will be making the sacrifice to raise funds for Ty

Hafan.
To celebrate Ty
Hafan's 10th anniversarv, a local sixth form student, Henri Armelin, is looking for support and sponsorship for his 'Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow' event, which is scheduled for November 27.

Henri plans to lose all his much loved locks to raise cash for the hos-

He told The GEM: "I am sure my friends will give me some stick after it's cut, but if I can raise some serious cash for Ty Hafan, it will be worth

"Besides, a haircut is nothing compared to what the kids in the hospice go through, and kids with cancer often lose all their hair when they have chemothera-

py."
Stas Asprou of Asprou Gents Hairdressers in Broad Street, Barry, will per-form the hair-raising event - which is planned as a fun showpiece at the Christmas Fayre at Westbourne School Penarth, on Friday, November 27.

In the meantime, Henri plans to canvass everyone he knows to

support the big chop.

He said; "I've already written to many local companies, and to the



Henri Armelin.

director of rugby at the Cardiff Blues, hoping some of the squad will sponsor me – especially as I'll probably end up looking like Tom Shanklin."

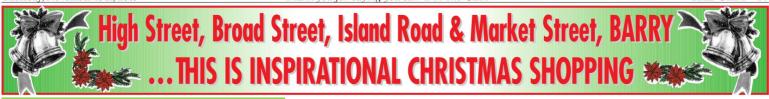
Henri attends Westbourne Sixth Form College, where he is studying higher level maths,Physics and chemistry for his International
Baccalaureate (IB) qualification.
Mr Underhill, head-

teacher at Westbourne School, said: "This is a really great idea Henri has come up with. "It demonstrates

maturity, and shows a responsible attitude towards the local community, two attributes the IB programme

actively encourages.
"The school supports him 100 per cent. I am sure the staff and students will be queuing up to sponsor Henri" Should anyone like to

sponsor Henri, send a cheque payable to Ty Hafan to the following address: The headteacher, Hair Today Gone Tomorrow sponsorship co-ordinator, Westbourne School, Hickman Road Penarth Vale of Glamorgan. CF64 2AJ





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Two Rump Steaks for £8 Chaplin's Restaurant

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BARRY'S WEST END SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

OR some people the idea of the High Street, Market Street, struggling

through the Christmas hordes in Cardiff is a torture akin to watching the X-Factor twins on Saturday night - and that's where Barry's inspirational West End steps in to save

Think about it! Local traders who offer specialist knowledge and the personal touch, or the frenentic service of national chain stores - which do you prefer?

One of the great strengths of

Broad Street and Island Road area is its capacity to reinvent the shopping experience.

In our five-page 'Inspirational Christmas Shopping' guide, we've highlighted some of the new businesses aiming to offer something that little bit different.

On page 18, we feature 'new concept' businesses Chaplin's and The Clothes Rail.

On page 19, High Street traders describe their battle to get their popular festive lights back for this year's Christmas shopping.

On page 20, entrepreneurs Lesley Kennedy of Spare Wardrobe and Jo Tague of Butterflies explain why they have just joined the High Street business community.

Barry's West End is famed for its friendliness and a strong community spirit, built up over many years - so when it's time to take the plunge into Christmas shopping, make sure you plan a visit to the High Street's shops.

The Mount Sorrel Join us for an evening of festive

fun with disco dancing til late

Some dates still available Christmas Buffet Dinner Dance

4th, 5th, 11th, 12th, 18th & 19th December

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH Bookings now being taken

Christmas Gift Idea! Treat someone special to tickets for

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ABOVE:

Paula Clissett, the owner of A Floral Creation on Island Road, recommends ordering early for bouquets, table decorations and



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'NEW CONCEPT' BUSINESSES HIT BARRY'S HIGH STREET JUST IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

SST! Whisper it softly before everybody knows - there are two stylish new additions to High Street - Chaplin's Restaurant and Steakhouse, which is new to the dining scene, and The Clothes Rail for the seriously fashion conscious.

Just four weeks old, Chaplin's is the ideal stop-off point for West End's shoppers who want a coffee, snack or a meal.

The manager Richard Patterson

explained: "We devised the restaurant around a retro theme – black and white décor, the 1930s to 1950s feel, subdued lighting, leather chairs and Tiffany lampshades and then came up with the name Chaplin's. which seemed to reflect it all.

"We could have opened in a number of locations, but it is ideal in a road with boutiques and unique shops, rather than in an area with chain stores."

Chaplin's provides meals, snacks and drinks throughout the day.

Richard said: "We open at 9.30am and offer breakfasts starting at just £2.95.
There's a lunchtime menu, and snacks to eat in or take away – jacket potatoes, baguettes, and home-made soup.

"One of our most popular deals at the moment is two meals for £8! We close from 3pm to 5pm to change the cloths and pre-

pare for our evening clientele.
"From 5pm, we offer an a la carte menu with a wide range of reasonably-priced source as much as possible of our produce locally." starters, main courses and deserts. We

There's a licensed bar with a great range of draught beers, a large selection of wines, eight different types of whisky, and 12

One of the great attractions of Chaplin's is its easygoing, relaxed atmosphere. Stars decorate the wall – a moody Marlon Brando, Sinatra gazes at you with assured arrogance, Marilyn Monroe adopts a flirty pose, and Humphrey Bogart swigs Gordon's Gin on The African Queen.

In the evening, rather than piped music, a

pianist entertains.
Richard said: "We're already fully booked for Christmas Day and New Year's Day, providing four-course meals and entertainment.

"Lunchtimes is already getting busier - we get a mixture of groups of people, along with the person who stops off for a quick meal or snack, before getting on with the working



Open for Breakfast from 9.30am Morning Coffee

Superb Lunch Selection 2 meals for £8

Evening A la Carte Menu eg: 12oz ribeye steak from £11.50

24oz Mixed Grill, Chicken Dishes, Fresh Fish, Pasta and Vegetarian choice. Specials board also available.

SUNDAY LUNCH

Served 12 noon - 4pm Fully Licensed bar with extensive selection of draught beers, wines and liquers

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Check our our website for full menu www.chaplinsrestaurantbarry.webs.com

Chaplin's is a restrained contrast to the bright lights and modern image of Cubana's next door.

So the secret is slowly getting out. For the ideal stop-off point during a busy West End shopping spree, Chaplin's is at your service!

Mother and daughter team Dawn and Emily Taylor have brought a new concept to High Street at The Clothes Rail.

The ranges they display - casual clothes, skirts, trousers, coats, jackets, funky handbags, fashion bags, accessories and shoes are branded factory over-stocks.

Dawn said: "Because they are over-stocks we can pick them up cheap and sell them on

"We're in a period of time in which people are cost conscious and we're responding to

"We get some women who want two or three party dresses for the party season and we start at just £8.50 per dress!

"Emily and I like bright colours, so we've tended to go for things that will stand out and are that little bit different.

The over-stock lines include both men's and women's clothing.

Emily makes handmade jewellery, which is catching on with local voungsters.

She said: "I make individual pieces which have been inspired by the Twilight books and films. They start from as little as £4."

Each piece of jewellery is unique - one Twilight bracelet on show has heart shapes and a wolf's head.

So for an inexpensive present, that is that little bit different. The Clothes Rail on High Street is well worth a browse.

BROAD STREET & BOVERT



LEFT: At your service -Chaplin's Beth Evans, front of house, and waiter Andrew Jenkins.



Dawn and Emily Taylor's The Clothes Rail is bringing factory over-stocks - and bargains - to the High Street.

The Clothes Rail LADIES & MENS FASHION

All your favourite clothing brands up to 1/2 price.

Jewellery, bags & accessories. Party wear now in stock.

Great Christmas gift ideas

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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT **SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 2009**

Order Under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for the prevention of obstruction, etc.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that The Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an Order under Section 16A, Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, for the prevention of obstruction, etc, as follows:

WHEREAS during certain hours on the day and date specified in column 1 of the schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, do HEREBY **ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Column 1	SCHEDULE Column 2	Column 3
Saturday 5th	High Street, Barry between	4.00pm
December 2009	Market Street and East Street	to 7.00pm
Saturday 5th	Island Road, Barry between	4.00pm
December 2009	Broad Street and Queen Street	to 7.00pm

Local signed Diversions shall be in place Dated this 19th of November 2009 M. PUNTER. Head of Visible Services Vale of Glamorgan Council,

The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA







Yes, we have lights', say High Street Traders STAND BY FOR THE BIG SWIT



HE High Street Traders have announced that due to the success of their monthly raffle, there WILL be lights in High Street this Christmas!

Anthony Hopkins said: "We didn't think we would be able to afford to put up Christmas lights this year, but the public response to our monthly raffle has been fantastic and with the help of Barry Town Council and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, our dream has become a reality."

On Sunday morning,

Floodlighting & Electrical Services Ltd and a work party of ded-icated traders and shop workers, gathered in High Street and set to work erecting the lights.
Anthony added: "I'd

like to say a big thank you to all those who

gave up a Sunday and got stuck in. We had a great team and after six hours of hard work, all of the lights were up, I'd also like to thank Tony Gratton (Tony's Cafe) for keeping us all fed and watered!"

The Big Switch-on will take place on Saturday, December 5. The street will be closed to vehicle traffic from 4pm-7pm when there will be various entertainment and stalls to help everyone to get into the Christmas Spirit.



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Marc Jordan I

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Karen, Beth and Kath would like to

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High Street and Island Road entrepreneurs bring early Christmas buzz to the West End

High Street businesses is demonstrated by the enthusiasm of two new shop owners who are looking forward to their first Christmas in the busy West End shopping area.

Young entreprenuer Jo Tague opened her gift shop Butterflies on April 9 and although she was anticipating a struggle, has exceeded

her hopes. She explained: "When I decided to open the shop, I orked out a proper business plan, erring on the side of caution

"The response from customers was far better than my predic-

tions.
"All I can say is if this is a recession, then roll on the good

Butterflies is a 'must visit' for Christmas shopping. Jo has cards, ornaments, jewellery, fig-urines, Disney character figures, the popular have to be in exellent range of Yankee candles which give off pleasant frangrances. cuddly toys, stocking fillers, gift wrapping,

Jo, aged 22, is the sort of businesswoman who is prepared to put the customers first. "I'm always here late because it is so busy.

"I'll be open late nights through the week and on Sundays in the run-up to Christmas.

"One thing I'm trying to do is support local craftspeople by stocking their goods."

Another businesswoman new to the area is Lesley Kennedy, who opened Spare Wardrobe for the fashion conscious woman on Island Road just days ago.

Lesley sells pre-owned good quality garments and acces-

She explained: "I sell items from top designer names to high street budget labels.

"I'm selective about the items I stock - they

condition.

Clients bring in suits, coats, jackets, skirts, handbags, jewellery or shoes, agree a realistic price with Lesley and the selling figure is split 50/50 between both parties, with customers picking up bargains.

Lesley said: "I've always worked in fashion retail. I once had a 'nearly new' shop called 'Wardrobe' in Thompson Street in Barry, and I opened Top Shop in Dan Evans in the 1980s."

Among the designer names stocked in

Spare Wardrobe at the moment are Karen Millen, Windsmoor, Monsoon, Wallace, Kaliko and Autograph.

Lesley said: "I relocated the shop from Holton Road just two weeks ago, and I'm looking forward to welcoming customers here, too."

RIGHT: Lesley Kennedy of Spare Wardrobe on Island Road has a number of designer name bargains stocked at her shop.





Young entrepreneuer, Jo Tague, whose shop Butterflies has exceeded her expectations.

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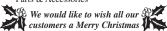
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ligh Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY .THIS IS INSPIRATIONAL CHRISTMAS SHOPPING





High Street traders are all set for the festive season!



ABOVE:

In the last week, Christmas window displays have been prepared in High Street - like this one at Dr Bob's Balloons, which supplies everything people need to organise a party!

Business awards

THE People Business Wales Ltd held an awards ceremony in the Civic Offices in Holton Road, Barry, for the Adult and Youth Learners who have successfully achieved a range of key skills. ICT and Job seeking qualifications.

The Education Minister and Vale Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, presented the certificates to the learners.



ABOVE:

Jane James of Jade Boutique has a stylish array of faux furs that would make an unforgettable Chrismas present.





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atin Rose Bag £15 The Spare Wardrobe





THE NEXT MEETING OF THE NEW VALE RURAL EVENTS NETWORK WILL BE TAKING PLACE AT THE **BEAR HOTEL, COWBRIDGE** ON **WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER** AT 10.00AM.

Come along, join the network for free and find out how your event can benefit from:

- *The free use of a stock of event equipment
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For more information or to register please contact Sarah Jones on 01446 704737 or email: sejones@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk







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Out and About with **The**

Cross-border harmony at choir's annual concert



THE Barry Male Voice Choir welcomed ladies of the Orwell Singers, Ipswich to share in the recent annual concert held at All Saint's Church Barry.

The near capacity audience enjoyed a gala evening of modern and classical songs and it was a proud and memorable occasion for Dorothy Connell and the choir as it was Dorothy's first annual concert as conductor.

The choir responded to her direction with passion and control, as ever accompanied by the tal-

Looking For Eric (15)

Crafts for Christmas

Children's Theatre

Christmas Rocks

en Loach directs this 'Full Monty-type' comedy of love d football. 24 Nov 7.30pm, 25 Nov 1.30pm, 7.30pm

Original Christmas presents, over 60 stalls in the castle and arts centre, festive food, Santa and live music!

oin young Will on his adventure with the Christmas iry. 3 Dec 10.30am

Talk - 'Nature, Art and Engineering'

citing debut concert for our new community choir, the St Donats Atlantic Chorale

Afternoon Carols Concert

8 Dec 3pm (with free tea and cake)

Tea Dance

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ree talk coinciding with our exhibition uspension bridge in Wales. 5 Dec 3pm

Velcome the festive season in with a good old-fashioned Twmpath. 5 Dec 7.30pm

Choral Concert

Christmas Twmpath

ST-**D**ONATS

ented Emma Arscott.

The male voice programme included a medey of songs from the popular musical Paint Your Wagon, Musz I Denn (Wooden Heart) made famous by Elvis Presley, a selection of Welsh songs, including Delilah and the ever opular and inspirational hymn *Llef*.

The Orwell Singers conducted by Gloria Wilson and accompanied by Sylvia Davies, sang with fine tone and control. Their programme included a selection of Songs from the Shows, The Sound of Silence by

African Medley. Watercolour Painting Class

the genuine feeling of regret, later expressed on the departure of the Orwell Singers after a Paul Simon, Negro Spirituals and a moving

very enjoyable afterglow held after the concert. The Barry Male Voice Choir is well travelled and following last year's eniovable visit to Scotland, is now prepar-

to provide sensitive har-

monious renderings of John Rutter's For the Beauty of the Earth. and Howard Goodall's Love

Divine.
The concert ended

friends) written and arranged by Dorothy

Connell.

with a multilingual com-position *Hwyl Fawr Ffrindiau* (Goodbye

This song expressed

The combined Barry Male Voice

and the Orwell Singers.

Both choirs combined ing for a concert tour of

southern Ireland. The

ship of very sociable

interest of music and

Friendship through

choir is a strong fellow-

men sharing a common

song. Its motto remains

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visitors are always wel-

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ing funds for Cancer Resea Vales, charity no 248767. **Telephone:** 07966 038065

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Diversity celebrated

BARRY College highlights the cultural diversity of south Wales later this month with a special week of events.

The college's Multicultural Week starts on November 23 and events include a visit from Show Racism the Red Card, which will hold in class exercises with Barry College football team, the FEDS, to emphasise teamwork and 'sportsmanlike activity' Rita Limbrick, of

Rita's Multicultural

Community Café on Main Street Barry, will give a cooking demonstration, student intranet, Moodle, will provide information, and there are awareness-raising exercises on all Barry College sites.
On November 25, the

college's crèche and childcare centre will hold a 'Children of the World' day where the toddlers who attend the centre will be encouraged to dress up in national costumes. They will be read stories relating to children around

VALE PACT MEETINGS ST ATHAN PACT, The Old Community Building,

November 23 BARUC PACT, St Francis Millennium Centre,

BARCE FACE, ST Francis Millennium Centre, Barry, November 26, 7,30pm.

COFFEE and chat meeting, White Lion public house, Ystradowen, December 1, 11.30am.
STANWELL PACT, All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth, December 4, 7pm. If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

Anniversary concert THERE is a 40th anniversary concert in aid of Cancer Research Wales, at Barry Memorial Hall, on Sunday, November 22, at 2pm.
Tickets £6, and £3 for children.

Party fayre
THE Vale Labour party Christmas fayre will take place on Saturday, November 28, at 11am, in the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry.
Stalls, activities and Father Christmas in attendance. For details telephone 07525 158391.

WHAT'S ON in brief

Vale AM's advice surgery
VALE of Glamorgan Assembly Member Jane Hutt, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, November 21, between Idam-12noon, at Murchfield Community Centre, Sunnnycroft Lane, Dinas Powys. No appointment necessary.

Telephone her constituency office on 01446 740981 for more information.

Christmas fayre

THE parish of Penarth and Llandough is holding its Christmas favre on Saturday, November 21, in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, at 10am-12noon.

Admission 50p, includes coffee; children admitted free. There will be a variety of excellent stalls and a raffle. Proceeds to church funds



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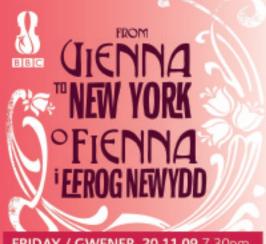
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Time when the railway was king in south Wales



ABOVE: The railway station at Cowbridge.

LOCAL railway enthusiast, MIKE WILCOCK, been reading a new book, entitled Lost Railways of South the area Wales, by Mike Hall. This is his review:

N this well researched new book, Mike Hall brings to life the railways of this area. With more than 100

photographs, including many not seen before, he takes the reader through the arrival of the railways in the 1830s, on through their decline and to the present day..

Chapter one covers the Border branch lines around the Wye Valley, Monmouth, Sudbrook and Caerwent.

Interesting photo-graphs show the old station buildings at Raglan alongside the A449, and one of the most difficult stations to find in Wales - at Pontypool, where the line is at least two miles from the town centre

Northwards from

Newport is covered in chapter two, and a further two pages of maps provide the reader with all the relevant informa tion on the stations in

If all the colliery platforms were included. there were more than 400 stations in south Wales during the peak of rail transportation. With the help of this book the reader will be able to identify some of their

Visiting the Big Pit and the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway will at least capture some of the days of steam.

Chapter three and four remind us of the Taff Vale, Heads of the Valleys, the coal fields and Cardiff area.

After more excellent photos of the viaducts at Walnut Tree, Clydach Gorge and Hengoed, we finally arrive at Cowbridge.

The railway to Cowbridge was opened to passengers in 1865 and the extension to Aberthaw in 1892.

Although the line was taken over by the TVR in 1876, the port at

developed and the extension closed in

We may yet see the station at Aberthaw open again, now that Arriva trains have re-introduced a successful passenger service on the Vale Line

Lines to Swansea and the west are featured in chapter five, with Battling to Brecon and Neath in chapter six

Finally, west Wales and chapter seven brings this fascinating book on railways to a close.

Reading it made me quite sad for the days long gone when railways were king.

But their inevitable costs both in running, building and no doubt today: the environmenta issues of coal extraction and burning, made them disappear very quickly, never to return.

The book is available, locally, through the Cowbridge Bookshop and in Cardiff at Ian Allan. For further information, contact the publishers on www.countrysidebooks.co.uk

Dodging the rain showers on a soggy stroll across the rural Vale

HE weather forecast was not exactly promising, but five walkers took a chance and boarded a train to meet up with Joy and Bracken for the journey down to

Upon their arrival, it was evident that there had been a heavy bout of rain by the huge puddles everywhere, but the group were well dressed for the elements – even the dog had a raincoat on – and they set off through Llantwit Major going downhill towards he coast.
Deviating off the road

Llantwit Major.

is a short rain shower fell; they followed a soggy leaf-lined path uphill to Castle Ditches that once guarded the entrance to Cwm Col-huw lying below them. Turning east, the group followed the cliff path with a very brisk wind at their backs, stopping fur-ther along above Stout

Bay for morning coffee. Soon the cliff top was occupied with men and spaniel dogs who were about to participate in pheasant-shooting and after a greeting, it was time to move to Summerhouse Point.

The group were aware of heavy showers moving across the Somerset coastline and also further inland over the north of the Vale, but fortunately for them they remained in a corridor of dry weather and even the sun put in an appear-

Reaching Summerhouse Point, they descended for the short journey across the

Bay, which was covered with driftwood much to the dog's delight – before crossing a stile into fields at Penry Bay.

Another stile saw them emerging above Limpert Bay with the huge shape of Aberthaw Power Station towering above them. Then it was time to circumnavigate the front of the power station behind the solid course. sea-defence wall and cross the river bridge Crossing the new over the River Thaw to the Leys beach where

Reaching Pleasant Harbour and going past the pond at the east Aberthaw nature reserve with the ivv-clad remains of the old limeworks beyond it, the group found a sheltered spot with bushes as a wind-break and stopped to enjoy their lunch.

the tide was ebbing.

Moving on to cross the salt flats, with a pair of swans gracefully floating on the salty pools, the group climbed the wooden steps up the cliff to reach Fontygary Holiday and Leisure

Park. At Watch House Point, they turned inland through a field where around a dozen pretty goldfinches took flight from the rough scrub-land as the group walked adjacent to the railway line behind the Rhoose quarries.

Reaching Rhoose railway station, two of the walkers dropped out to catch a train while the remainder walked a nar row track through a copse into an open meadow to rejoin the coastal path by the quar-ries at Rhoose Point.

Coats were discarded as they walked past the

tall piece of slate marking the southernmost tip of mainland Wales as the sun shone, but the wind still remained blustery.

NEWS FROM PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

From Porthkerry Caravan Park, the group followed the road down to Porthkerry village and passing St Curig's Church, they took the route through the woods following the slippery path downhill to the golf

footbridge, erected by volunteers from the NHS earlier in the year, they walked the main mead ow of Porthkerry Park, going uphill through Lover's Lane to emerge onto Park Road.

Passing the ruins of the 13th century Barry Castle, all that remained was a trek along Old Village Road and into Canon Street before the descent back to Barry Railway Station and the

Taking a break above Stout Bay.

journey home. On November 21, meet at 9am at the Barry Waterfront for an eight-mile moderate walk at Aberkenfig; contact Barbara on 01446 734686.

On November 22, meet at 10.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a five-mile easy walk at Radyr Woods and the Glamorgan Canal; contact Krys on 029 2070 0678. Wear suitable cloth-

ing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. For other groups' walk

www.ramblers.org.uk Rucksack badges, pro-grammes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2021 9102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Vale Ramblers on cross-border walk



The Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers pictured on their recent walk in Tetbury.

THE Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers recently spent a somewhat damp but enjoyable walking weekend based in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, led by Roger and Pat.

Friday evening was spent in the Crown Inn discussing arrangements for the weekend, after an interesting heritage walk around the town by several members, a spokesperson reports

Saturday dawned wet, but the intrepid group, including Zetta and Andrew from West Glamorgan Ramblers, set out on a circular walk of nine miles from Kingscote, passing the village of Horsley and the town of Nailsworth.

The latter was well known for cloth manufacture, brewing and for having been at one time the home of the Welsh poet, WH Davies.

A rather wet and windy lunch was taken under the trees by the pond at Ruskin Mill, which has been for 40 years, 'an educational trust for young people who fall between the cracks of mainstream provision, providing a

natural environment to work on real life pur-poseful tasks'. The sec ond we had decided to eat under the trees the sun came out on the other side of the pond and, although not out long, we were able to finish the walk through the woods and fields back to Kingscote in fine

weather. There were hopeful forecasts of "supposed to be better tomorrow" and, to be fair, it was not actually raining as we drove to Westonbirt to meet our guide, Peter Higginbotham, for a tour around the Arboretum.

He was informative, enthusiastic and had a light-hearted touch that kept us entertained. Lunch was taken on

the picnic benches, whereupon, on the first bites of the sandwiches. the heavens opened and we finished our lunch squatting under the

We continued our walk through the Silkwood and the Acer Glade, containing the National Collection of Japanese Maples, then out of the Arboretum for the four-mile walk back to Tetbury; memorable for the polo pony studs

Highgrove House.
We think HRH must have been away on royal business as he failed to invite us for tea.

and the back of

In spite of the generally dismal weather, the colours of leaf and berry were wonderful; we felt we had chosen just the right time to visit before

leaf fall.
Thanks to everyone who made the weekend so enjoyable with their company and great cheerfulness and fortitude in the drizzle. We are already looking forward to our spring week-end in the Malvern Hills.

EMAIL THE GEM!

 WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please email them to the Editorial Department at: ggem@internet-today.co.uk

World Soroptimists visit the Welsh capital city for 'Bras in the Bay'

CARDIFF recently hosted the 75th annual conference of Soroptimist International of Great Britain and Ireland (SIGBI). attended by 1,700

ladies from 28 countries including Europe, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Delegates met to discuss the business of the organisation, to take

decisions on its future, and to listen to keynote speakers Chris Moon MBE. Ian Woodall and Christina Lamb, who each had inspiring and

uplifting stories to tell. It was not all work, however, and delegates enjoyed some excellent evening entertainment with a Welsh flavour.

Barry and District were actively involved in the

Members of Soroptimist International

organisation and running



conference, and were also delighted to participate in the 'Bras in the Bay' initiative.

Second hand bras are valuable commodities. and British bras in particular are considered to be of very high quality.

SIGBI has been work

ing with Oxfam since 2007 in helping deprived women in Africa to obtain this item of underclothing. Through Oxfam's Wastesaver tex tile recycling facility, British bras are sent to Senegal, where the objective of the project is to create a social enterprise for the import and onward sale of second hand clothing.

LEFT: Barry members, together with other delegates, at the photo shoot outside the Wales Millennium Centre.

DUNG VOLUNI EERS ARE PRESENT H MAYOR'S AWARDS FO

have received special awards from the Vale Council.

A council spokesman explained that the mayor's awards scheme is an informal recognition of educa-tional and related achievements.

"Running at gold, silver and bronze levels, the scheme operates in youth centres and is based around activities in seven key curriculum areas – issue-based work, sports, arts, community projects, citizenship, trips/visits and information."

The third year of the scheme involved 52 young people – 45 at bronze level, six (silver) and one (gold) – who had raised funds for local charities, vol-unteer tutoring, competing in national dance compe-titions and environmental projects. Vale youth development officer Nadia Stanton,

said: "These young people completed the projects on a voluntary basis and, as well as now being able to celebrate such marvellous achievements at a personal level, they have enhanced the communities in which they live."

Awards were presented by Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams, who hosted the event, and Coun John Clifford, chairman of the Vale Council's scrutiny (lifelong learning) committee.



Awards for Motion Control (Barry) dancers.



Vale Mayor Coun Emlyn Williams and Coun John Clifford with gold award winner Keira Jo Stanton, from Llantwit Major.



Award winners Connor Wyatt (right) and Gareth Williams.



Award winners from Rhoose.



Award winners from Llantwit Major Youth Centre.



Silver awards for Llantwit Major Youth Centre members, and Motion Control dancers from Barry.



Area 41 (Barry) award winners.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

THE latest results from Barrivale Bridge Club were:
October 27: 1st Mike Close and Mike Best 71.43 per cent; 2nd Huw Thomas and Denis Mottram 57.14 per cent; 3rd Eileen Hughes and Carol James 55.56

Hilary Laurence and Viv Liles won on handicap.

November 3: 1st Noelle Bond and Mark Roderick 61.90 per cent; 2nd Irene Thomas and Graham Jones 56.94 per cent; **3rd** Alan Jones and Lyn Matthews 51.59 per cent.

Helen Jordan and Maureen Charlton won on handicap

Celebrity yachtsman in Barry

CELEBRITY yachtsman Tom Cunliffe is making a special appearance at Barry Yacht Club on Thursday, November 26, at 8 pm to give a talk on seafaring and survival in hard times.

Open to non-mem-bers, the talk called 'Lead us not into digital temptation (From Grandfather's pocket watch to the Electronic Chart Plotter)' examines how technology is changing how we do things, and how our minds work, whether we go to sea or not.

Admission is free, with a voluntary charity collection to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute being made at

the event.
Tom Cunliffe's is presenter of Boat Yard cur rently showing on

Discovery Channel TV.

He is also well-known for his appearances on BBC1's Island Race, a series of eight prime-time documentaries made as he skippered a voyage round Britain with John McCarthy, the Beirut hostage, and comedienne Sandi Toksvig as crew.

For further informa tion and tickets, tele phone 01446 730344.

Ty Hafan lottery

WINNING num-bers in the Ty Hafan lottery draw number 592: ● £2000: 872419. • £10: 894143, 383396, 794310, 408645, 491647, 869482, 412402, 652662, 878994, 624298, 814277, 136260, 442653, 692892, 509398, 415239, 815018, 271520, 381036, 813969. • £5: 636959, 769347, 808270, 521712, 757718, 575917, 120591, 192227, 828797, 379364, 705821, 108156, 425103, 217071, 683118, 183087, 128151, 223376, 999651, 727407, 574280, 889115,

192170, 640518, 553547 858647, 181586, 646460 738886, 459894, 872077 884473, 832323, 337325 570716, 656207, 356505 375644, 219362, 565344, 191032, 388252, 854371, 835857, 831815, 847030, 239658, 440729, 321666 478780, 871717, 851706 781066, 615423, 710402, 532433, 346056, 208840, 547889, 772952. The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

The Oscars (of a sort) at Fontygary!



BEST bib and tucker was the order of the day at **Fontygary Leisure** Park last weekend when the Fontygary Kids, who had performed a wonderful production of Grease for their mums and dads, were given the full Oscar' treatment -

parents all coming together!

thank the red carpet and all.

The Kids and families sat in a VIP roped-off area and walked up a red carpet to receive their prized Oscars – beautiful ball gowns – tiaras and very proud



"I would like to

SOUTH WALES REGIONAL SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR BOYS, TRELAI PARK, CARDIFF

Morgan is the top runner at regional championships

THREE Bridgend county borough pupils claimed medals at the 12th South Wales Regional cross-country championships for boys, held in difficult. wet conditions at Cardiff's Trelai Park.

Because of the num-bers who have taken part at this fixture in past years, medals are awarded to the top three seniors, the first five at under-15 (years 9 and 10) and the top eight under-13s (years 7 and

Fifth former Morgan Davies was the top placed runner. The Porthcawl pupil has improved significantly from his 17th placing in the under-15 race last year, in dry conditions.

At this fixture he continued the progress that he had showed in the under-17 race at the opening Gwent League fixture, held over the Newbridge Fields course in early October.

Again he ended trying to chase the much more experienced Lewis School (Caerphilly) year-12 Alex Edwards but had to settle for second place, finishing 16 seconds down in second place - a performance which suggests that, if he can continue to make progress, he has a chance of international honours after Christmas.

The under-13 race was won by a member of Bridgend AC, of Bridgend AC, Llantwit year-8 Ben Owen, with two Bridgend county boys in the top eight.

Harry Jenkins (Porthcawl) was fourth, while one of the Davies twins. Harry, from Brynteg claimed seventh spot. Missing from the starting line was Lewis Jones (Maesteg), who had finished third in the

2008 race. Year-9 Morgan Thomas (Porthcawl), the 2008 under-13 winner. was the top Bridgend finisher in the under-15 race, taking ninth in the opening race.

Perhaps the most encouraging part of the fixture was the fielding of both A and B teams in the under-13 section by Ysgol Gyfun

Llangynwyd. The Welsh medium school has only been open since September 2008 and only has two years on roll.

Ben Jones had the dis-tinction of being the school's first ever boy to finish, taking a cred itable 26th in a smaller than usual field of 237, and leading his A squad to 12th place, two behind Porthcawl.

The next major schools' cross-country fixture is the 33rd Welsh Schools Inter Schools championships, which will be held at Penlan Brecon, next Saturday, November 14.

Results of Bridgend County boys: **Senior boys** - 5,490m – years **boys** - 5,490m – years 11 to 14 – 73 finishers 2 Morgan Davies Porthcawl 20:42; 29 Rhys Clayton Brynteg 24:29

Under-15 boys 4,400m – years 9 &10 – 160 finishers – 9 Morgan Thomas Porthcawl 18:00; 11 Jack Couch Portheawl 18:02; 21 James Hunt Brynteg 18:31: 32 Dan Brace Brynteg 19:12; 36 Tom Allen Porthcawl 19:24: 53 Jacob David Porthcawl 20:00; 70 Daniel Glen Bryntirion:

Llantwit's Ben runs through the pain (and the rain)

For the Vale boys who have only experi enced dry Cardiff & the Vale Schools' crosscountry league fixtures so far this term, the 12th South Wales Regional Schools' championships came as a big shock. It rained and rained and

When the course marking team were setting out the marking stakes and tapes, the rain was so heavy that Mr Brian Davies, the longest serving schools official, suggested that the finish be moved from the planned site halfway up Trelai Park, to one closer to the changing rooms - a suggestion that was agreed. with a 300 metres reduction for each course.

The top Vale performance over the reverse Trelai course came in the second race for for pupils in years 7 and 8.

After a steady first small lap, Llantwit year-8 Ben Owen cut loose and was never headed on the more testing, longer second lap, finishing eight seconds clear of Tom Edmunds (St Martin's).

Recause of the number of pupils who have competed in the past. medals are awarded to the first eight finishers in this race. As a result, Tom Owen (Cowbridge) gained an award for finishing eighth.

With illness preventing the Bro Morgannwg duo of Rory Heslop and Harri Williams from competing in the opening race of the afternoon, the under-15 event for years 9 and 10 it was left to Barry Comprehensive pupils to lead the Vale contingent home. Last year, Matthew Edwards and Callum Barrie finished 21st and 48th respective-ly. It underlines how much they have improved in the last 12 months that Edwards only just missed out on a top three placing, finish-ing fourth, while his team-mate, Barrie, fin-

ished 10th. With Stanwell only

by PETER **MORRIS**

fielding teams up to year-9 in the Cardiff & Vale Schools league, it was encouraging to see year-10 Huw Evans competing at this event and he should be pleased by his 13th place, one ahead of team-mate Elliot Richards. One athlete may feel

particularly disappointed with his placing in this race. Llantwit year-10 Dan Owen, older brother of under-13 winner Ben, went off very hard and was well placed for much of the 4,400 metres course, but he ran out of steam in the last big lap and slipped down

the field to 38th place.
With the leading four senior boys - Alex Edwards (Lewis School), Morgan Davies (Porthcawl), Alex Coomber (Bryn Celynnog) and Konstantinos Karras (Radyr) – getting away on the opening two small laps, it was Elliot Mears who led the Vale boys home. The Cowbridge year-11 man aged to hang on to fifth place in a very tight fin-ish, in which only four seconds separated the four places down to ninth.

Mears, and his school-mates Oliver Beaman (15th), Josh Thomas (24th) and Jon Esquirol (46th) also had the satisfaction of helping Cowbridge claim third team place, the only Vale squad to feature in the top three

The under-13 and under-15 team competitions were won by Llanishen High, with Lewis School, from Caerphilly, taking second place.

The Barry Comprehensive quartet were top Vale school at under-15, finishing eighth, while the Cowbridge A team of Tom Owen, Kristian Jones, Huw Bennett and Cai Allin finished lead Vale school at under-13.

in sixth. Pupils from Cowbridge and Llantwit will be in action at the 33rd Welsh Schools' Inter Schools' champi-

onships, to be held at Penlan, Brecon next Saturday, November 14. Vale results: **Senior boys** - 5,490m – years 11 to 14 - 73 finishers Elliot Mears Cowbridge 21:37; 7 Darren Jones Llantwit 21:40; 10 Daniel Lewis St Cyres 22:20; 14 Dominic Farr Bro Morgannwg 22:57; 15 Oliver Beaman Cowbridge 23:04; 19 Joseff Whitmarsh-Knight Bro Morgannwg 23:24; 23 Duke Durham St Cyres 24:07; 24 Josh Thomas Cowbridge

24:09; 28 Tom Howles Llantwit 24:23; 30 Dan Ruffle Llantwit 24:32; 46 Jon Esquirol 46 Joh Esquirol Cowbridge 25:49; 49 William Elliot Cowbridge 25:58; 56 Kyle Garrison Barry College 26:28; 58 Rhys Allin Cowbridge 26:49; 62 Michael Lloyd Cowbridge 26:58; 68 Jon Mansell Cowbridge 28:01: 69 Steffan Kitchen Cowbridge 28:02; 70 Oliver Crosby Llantwit 28:05; 72 Jack Grahame Llantwit 28:42.

A Teams: 3 Cowbridge 90; 4 Llantwit 135; B Teams: 4 Cowbridge B 237. Under-15 boys –

4,400m – years 9 and 10 – 160 finishers – 4 Matthew Edwards Barry Comp 17:21; 10 Callum Barrie Barry Comp 18:01; 13 Huw Evans Stanwell 18:04; 14 Elliott Richards Stanwell 18:12; 37 Dafydd James-Isaac Llantwit; 38 Dan Owen Llantwit; 40 Adam Hewitt Cowbridge; 42 Matthew Sullivan Cowbridge; 56 Richard Lewis Barry Comp; 72 Stuart Fleming Cowbridge; 73 Matthew Collins Barry Comp; 81 Elliot Parry Llantwit; 88 Lewys Jones Cowbridge; 92 Rowan Miller Llantwit; 95 Curtis Haves Barry Comp; 115 Tom Parker Llantwit; 116 Hatin Shami Cowbridge; 137 Ieuan Jones Stanwell; 151 Andrius Stepanovusi Barry Comp; 154 Deon Garrison Llantwit; 157

Tom Davies Stanwell.

A Teams: 8 Barry Comp 143; 10 Cowbridge 242; 11 Llantwit 248; 14

Stanwell 321. Under-13 boys 2750m- years 7 and 8 – 237 finishers – 1 Ben Owen Llantwit 11:25; 8 Tom Owen Cowbridge 12:04; 14 Kristian Jones Cowbridge 12:30; 20 Rhys Schuster St Cyres 12:43; 32 Callum Smith St Cyres; 41 Huw Bennett Cowbridge; 45 Rhys Knight Stanwell; 46 Callum Drew Llantwit; 51 Richard Dangerfield Llantwit; 58 Arran Bright Llantwit; 63 Scott McMillan Llantwit: 80 Jake Mazzitelli Llantwit; 85 Cai Allin Cowbridge; 89 Gareth Hurman Barry Comp; 101 Miles Jenkins Cowbridge; 110 Scott Dutfield Stanwell; 112 Callum Goddard Barry Comp; 116 Tom Rawlings Llantwit; 120 Liam Martin Cowbridge; 135 Will Parker Llantwit; 141 Will Brown Stanwell; 142 Tomos Harvard St Cyres; 143 Hywel Williams Cowbridge; 154 Samir Boulaiche St Cyres; 155 Scott Thomas Cowbridge; 156 Kieran Gray Llantwit; 173 Calvin McCann Barry Comp; 175 Chad Travis Barry Comp; 176 Ben Jones Cowbridge; 177 Daniel Oddy

Parry Llantwit; 181 David Flanigan Stanwell; 192 Tom Geer Stanwell: 194 Jacob Frost Stanwell; 202 Calum Stisted Stanwell: 207 Ben Brown Llantwit; 224 Brad Enticott Barry Comp; 233 Iestyn Jones Llantwit. A Teams: 6

Cowbridge 148; 7 Llantwit 156; 14 St Cyres 348; 18 Stanwell 477; 24 Barry Comp 477; 24 Barry Comp 549; B Teams: 5 Cowbridge B 353; 7 Llantwit B 394; 12 Cowbridge C 519; 22 Llantwit C 774; Scott Durham Porthcawl: 113 Tom Hibbard-Jones Porthcawl; 118 Lewis Brace Brynteg; 123 Hayden McMeekin Porthcawl; 136 Corey Divetta Porthcawl; 139 Jay Ellis Brynteg; 148 Patrick O'Toole Brynteg; 155 Sam Matthews Porthcawl: 158 Jack Sealy Brynteg; 160 Connor Watkins Porthcawl.

A Teams: 6 Porthcawl 109; 12 Brynteg 310; B Teams: 11 Porthcawl B

Under-13 Boys – 2,750m – years 7 and 8 – 237 finishers – 4 Harry Jenkins Porthcawl 11:53: 7 Harry Davies Brynteg 12:01; 26 Ben Jones YG Llangynwyd; 27 Reuben Tooze Brynteg; 49 Connor Williams YG Llangynwyd; 64 Joseph Hapgood Archbishop McGrath; 56 Daniel Cornish YG Llangynwyd; 71 Joseph Jones Porthcawl; 72 Jordan Norris Porthcawl: 83 Robert Davies Portheawl: 90 Jordan Fox Porthcawl; 148 Rhys Roberts YG Llangynwyd; 180 Dafydd Davies YG Llangynwyd; 209 Ryan Matthews Porthcawl; 227 Owen Watkins YG Llangynwyd; 228 Garin Lychar YG Llangynwyd

A Teams: 10 Porthcawl 230; 12 YG Llangynwyd 279; B Teams 16 YG Llangynwyd B 635.

ANOTHER GOLFING **WIN AT MACHYNYS** THE monthly meet- Owen, with 31 points,

TIM 'POSTS' YET

Farmers' Golf Society, held recently at the impressive Peninsular Golf Club and sponsored by the NFU Mutual

Insurance Company, attracted a record 56 entries, all competing for the many individual and team prizes on

offer. In addition to the normal hazards which golfers normally encounter, competitors also had to contend with lakes which came into play on 16 of the 18 holes.

ing of the

Glamorgan

Machynys

Any wayward shot was likely to be met with that familiar splash of water and unprintable comment while those able to keep the ball on the fairway were rewarded with receptive greens awaiting their next shot. The individual com-

petition was keenly contested, with three mem-bers all finishing with a top score of 33 points the back nine being the deciding factor.
Postman Tim Jarvis,

with 16 points on the back nine, came out on top just ahead of generous sponsor Julian Kelly, who scored 15

Tosh Taylor, with 14 on the back nine finished Jarvis and his son third, while Bryan

was fourth.

This success gave Tim endeavour 'back to back' wins following last month when he collected the David Evans (Agriculture) Ltd Trophy.

Guest section

A large turn-out of invited guests enjoyed their own competition. resulting in Robert Calcaterra taking first place with an impressive 37 points.

Joe Lacey and Barrie Melhuish finished second and third respectively with 32 points.

Others who played but failed to trouble the leader board included Bill Goldsworthy, Ed Philpin, Kevin Latham, Chris Watson, Robert Crookes and Glyn Thomas.
The NFU Mutual

Team Challenge competition, with two scores on the first six holes. three scores on the next six holes, and all four scores counting on the final six holes once again proved a popular team competition, with the winning team com-prising John Caines, Peter Fryer, Martin David and Barry Radley,

who scored 102 points. Runners-up with 98 points were Mike King, Gordon Cooper, Colin Humphreys and Joe Lacey, while in third place with 97 points were Keith Walker Barrie Melhuish, Tim

Best

Surprisingly, the much-fancied team of Southerndown-based members Robert Thomas, Glyn Watts-Jones and Clive Edwards, together with

> fairways, and collected the best endeavour team prize with just 65 points. Captain Ray Howells. Ray Simkiss, Gino Cocco and Lynn Thomas were relieved to finish

Gwyn Thomas, failed to

magnificently manicured

come to terms with the

runners-up.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were Colin Humphreys, Barrie Melhuish, Barry Radley and also former Vale farmer Peter

Francis.
The 'James the Butcher' sponsored longest drive on the 18th hole was won by Martin

Keith Gibson's significant contribution to the 165 golf balls that failed to return home was rewarded when he won the 'Premier Turf' sponsored lost ball competition, resulting in £100 being raised for the Vale-based charity, the Ed Evans Foundation.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday November 26, at The Glamorganshire Golf Club, sponsored by Herbert R Thomas Ltd.

Top coach brings another rugby title to Fontyclun

PONTYCLUN-**BORN Paul John** has won top prize at the Sports Council for Wales' Coach of the Year Awards.

The former Welsh rugby star took the prestigious 'Coach of the Year' award, together with high performance coach of the year, at a glittering ceremony

in Cardiff's Welsh Institute of Sport, after leading the Wales rugby sevens team to World Cup victory. First pulling on his

boots for local side Llantwit Fardre, the scrum-half went on to play and captain Pontypridd RFC and earn 10 caps for his country.

He became National Sevens Coach last October, and just five months later, John led his first choice squad out to the IRB World Cup in Dubai.

Having knocked out the tournament favourites, New Zealand, in an earlier round. Wales went on to beat Argentina 19-12 and be crowned World Champions.

John was nominated ov John Schronfer. WRU National coach development manager, who stated: "Paul's attributes make him an ideal role model for the young players aspiring to become professional players. His empowerng style of coaching has seen his charges develop considerably this last year.

"He is the first Welsh rugby coach who can say that he has won the World Cup for Sevens. This was an incredible achievement.

Malcolm Arnold, whose athletics career spans more than 40 years, was recognised for his contribution to sport.

National Coach for Wales from 1974 -1994, Arnold helped Colin Jackson to an Olympic silver medal, World, European and Commonwealth Games gold medals and a world record in the 110m hurdles

Now senior performance coach for UK Athletics, Arnold continues to play a key role in developing Olympic hopefuls; guiding Swansea Harrier, Dai Greene to the World Championship final and a string of personal bests in 2009 and bringing Bridgend's Rhys Williams back from injury to qualify for the Berlin World Championships.

Cowbridge ladies will go north!

RECENT games for the Cowbridge ladies rugby team have unfortunately been postponed due to the weather, but the ladies are eager to get back on the pitch and this Sunday they will travel north to Dolgellau.

After a promising start to the home game when the two teams last net, Cowbridge will be looking to put more points on the board this time around. The following week (November 29) the Ladies take on Whitland at home (2.30pm kick-off).

Players recently took part in a team-building activity, organised by captain Rebecca Porter, at Clyne Farm in Swansea. 'Challenge Valley', a muddy assault course, awaited the ladies who each gave it their all to complete (in some shape or form!). Each task required

different attributes but overall the use of determination, endurance and support from fellow im-mates proved successful.

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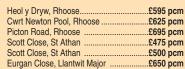
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Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend at 1.45pm. No flowers
by request, donations if desired to St Illtuds Church c/o J
James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose CF62 3DZ.

E Douglas, Ian

friend of Bill Cameron of Barry. Douglas will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends. Resting at James Summers and Son, Lavernock Court, Penarth, until the funeral service on Thursday 26th November 2009 at Coychurch Crematorium at 2.45pm. No flowers but donations if so desired, for Harefield Hospital c/o the funeral home

Water Resources Act 1991

Notice of application for consent for the purposes of section 88

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN in accordance with schedule 10 of the water resources act 1991 that an application has been made to the Environment Agency by Cottrell Park Limited for consent to discharge up to 16.5 cubic meters per day of the secondary treated sewage effluent to ground waters via a soakaway at national grid reference ST 07827 74984 from Cottrell Park Golf Club, St Nicholas, Cardiff, CF5 6SJ.

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should do so in writing to the Environment Agency, Water Quality Permitting Support Centre PO Box 4209, Sheffield, S9 9BS, during the period 19:11:09 to 31:12:09 quoting reference NPSWQD006817.

Mr Alan Glass 10.11.09

Family Notices

PHILLIPS

BLACKMORE

Suddenly at Llandough Hospital on Saturday 14th of November 2009, Douglas, beloved civil partner and best

Environment Agency

(As Amended by the Environment Act 1995)

Please be aware that any representation may be made available to third parties under the Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

08445 611063

Public Notices

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge at the local Environment Agency office at the Environmen Agency, Rivers House, St Mellons Business Pk, Fortrar Road, St Mellons, Cardiff, CF3 0EV between the hours o 9 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday (Not bank Holiday).

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Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools track and field presentation evening

TWO Vale students scooped the three top awards at the recent Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools Track & Field Presentation Evening at Cardiff High School.

For Penarth resident Elinor Lewis, the evening ended with two awards. The multi-talented Bro Morgannwg sixth former has had another outstanding summer. After helping her school to its firstever victory in the opening track and field fixture of the summer – the Senior Cup Final – at the new Leckwith stadium, she claimed two titles at the senior championships – the pole vault (with a new championship best of 3.30 metres) and the triple jump – and added to that the senior pentathlon title at the Combine Events championships

It was at the Welsh Schools Nationals, at new Leckwith in July, that she made a major breakthrough. She won the senior girls' pole vault title for the first time, but this was her third National Schools title in four years, and, for the fourth consecutive year, she set a new championship best - of

That performance, coupled with her unique Welsh Schools record, resulted in her receiving the Frank Ireland cup, for the outstanding Cardiff & the Vale Schools' track and field athlete, and the Bob Cypher award and bursary.

Barry sixth former Curtis Mathews was the second award winner. The Cwm Talwg resident first

made his mark in 2008 when, as a fifth former, he won the Cardiff & the Vale Schools' middle boys combined events title and went on to claim second place in the Welsh Schools' championships at Carmarthen.

After that summer success, he was invited to the Welsh Schools trials at NIAC in November and, in December, made his international debut for the under-18 team at the SIAB Indoor Combined Events championships at Kelvin Hall, Glasgov For being a member of that team, he received his international plaque at this presentation evening.

This summer, he has made huge strides, claiming three individual wins at both the Cardiff & Vale senior cup and senior championships in April and setting a new championships best for the senior boys age group at the combined events champi-

onships in May.

At Welsh Schools, he won the senior boys combined events at Swansea, and followed that up by competing for the Cardiff & the Vale Schools in the long jump, high jump, discus and B relay team at the Welsh Schools nationals, winning the high

In addition to his schools' competition, the Barry & Vale Harriers has been training regularly with John Hartley at the club, and has worked on decathlon events with Mike Guest and, on the first weekend in September, represented Wales in the under-20 age group at the Home Countries combined events International at Stoke, scoring a very

At the presentation evening, his progress was underlined by the award of the Capitol Shopping Centre Cup for Endeavour.

Sadly, neither of these talented athletes was able

to represent Welsh Schools this summer because the planned celebration under-20 international. intended to mark 50 years since the first schools' international at Colwyn Bay in 1959, was not held.

The one major trophy which did not go to a Vale school was the overall championship points trophy. Four schools, including Bro Morgannwg and Cowbridge, had totals of more than a 1,000 over the eight age groups, but the award went to Cardiff High School, with a score of 1,757.

Two year-11 pupils received international plaques for representing Welsh Schools this summer. Jamie Sexton has been the busier of the two with the St Richard Gwyn pupil competing in the 100 metres and the relay at the SIAB under-17 international in Antrim in July, finishing third in the 100 (11.10) and helping the relay squad to second place, and in the relay team at the UK School Games at Leckwith in September, where the team finished third.

St Cyres powerhouse James Wiltshire was the second pupil. Having finished second to Paul Bennett (Dyfed) at the Nationals over 400, he was sadly, not available for the SIAB fixture but was selected for the 4 x 400 team at the UK School Games. He produced storming second leg runs in both the Saturday heat and the Sunday final, but an injury affected squad finished out of the medals in fifth place.

Although they missed out on the overall cham pionship points award, four Vale school did receive team awards. Bro Morgannwg retained the junior girls championships trophy and had success in the cup competitions at under-20 and under-16. Cowbridge claimed three championship trophies – both senior sections and the year-7 boys – while

Report by PETER MORRIS, Pictures by IAN DIXON

Barry now have the under-16 boys B final trophy in their cabinet, and Llantwit have the equivalent girls' award, plus a six months holding of the under-14 A Cup Final trophy, which they share with Cardiff High.

At the end of the evening, the Cardiff & Vale Schools' chairman, Mr Rob Glaves of St Cyres, recorded the association's thanks to a number of groups and individuals for their help and support through the summer programme. Included in the list were: Mr Bob Cypher and his wife Min; Mr Ted Nicholson (British Red Cross); Mr Ian Dixon photographer); the staff of the Vale Council and Jenner Park; the Vale of Glamorgan Council for its grant aid; team managers – Mrs Laura Burnett (St Richard Gwyn), Mrs Melissa Hunter (Stanwell), Mr John Patterson (Llantwit), and Mr Glan Williams (Cowbridge); and to the Vale newspapers, which reported our events.

On a very sad note, the Frank Ireland cup, given

to the association by its former president, was presented on the evening before he died. His funeral

sented on the evening before he died. His funeral is due to take place at Cardiff's Thornhill Cemetery on Thursday, September 24, at 11.45 am. Vale award winners: TEAM AWARDS — CHAMPIONSHIPS — The Capitol Shopping Centre Trophies: Senior Boys Cowbridge 354; Senior Girls Cowbridge 301; Junior Girls Bro Morgannwg 215; Year-7 Boys Cowbridge 225 TEAM AWARDS — CUP Competitions: Under-20 Boys Bro Morgannwg 100; Under-20 Girls Bro Morgannwg 99. A Cup Final: Under-16 Boys Bro Morgannwg 195; Under-16 Girls Bro Morgannwg 170; Under-14 Girls Llantwit & Cardiff High 174. B Cup Final: Under-16 Boys Barry 183.5;

B Cup Final: Under-16 Boys Barry 183.5; Under-16 Girls Llantwit 175.

AWARDS TO INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONS – SENIOR BOYS: Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M) 2000Sc 6:53.9; Curtis Mathews (Barry) HJ; LJ, DT, Pentathlon 1.78, 6.35, 33.64, 2590 CBP; Matt Wilcox (Cow) SP 10.18; Mike Lloyd (Cow) 110H 20.4; Steffan Kitchen (Cow) JT 34.81; Adam Jones

(Stan) 100, 200 12.0, 23.6. SENIOR GIRLS: Elinor Lewis (Bro M) PV, TJ, Pentathlon 3.30 CBP, 10.30, 1,820; Alice Thomas (Cow) 400H 91.6; Heather Jarvis (Cow) 200 33.9;

(Cow) 400H 91.6; Heather Jarvis (Cow) 200 33.9; Maddi Edgeworth (Cow) 800, 100H 2:53.5, 22.2; Rebecca Hoddart (Cow) HJ 1.25; Ayla Phillips (Llantwit) SP, HT 9.79, 35.11 CBP. MIDDLE BOYS – Years 10 and 11: Reuben Tucker (Cow) SP 12.21; Rhys Allin (Cow) 800 2:15.5; Sam Bunkham (Cow) TJ 12.03; Scott Hewins (Llantwit) JT 42.88; Bradley Cole (St Cy) HT 31.41; James Wiltshire (St Cy) 400 53.3; Jamie Sexton (St Rich G) 100 11.4.

MIDDLE GIRLS: Jamie Treweeks (Bro M) JT 19.44; Lia Thomas (Bro M) TJ 8.81; Shanelle Edwards (Bro M) LJ 4.72; Nisha Shie (Cow) HJ 1.40; Bethan Daw (St Cy) 1500 5:22.3; Lauren McCarthy (St Cy) 300 43.2; Eloise Laity (West)

JUNIOR BOYS – Years 8 and 9: Arran Reid (Barry) 200 24.62; Matthew Edwards (Barry) 1500 4:37.15; Matthew Roan (St Cy) HJ 1.60; Tom Smith (Stan) TJ 10.87.

JUNIOR GIRLS: Fern Mason (Bro M) JT JUNIOR GIRLS: Fern Mason (Bro M) J1 23.57; Nancie Edwards (Cow) 1000 Walk 10:25.72; Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit) 800 2:34.03; Lucy Taylor (Llantwit) LJ 4.48; Caitlin Bryant (The Cathedral) 1500 5:17.27.

YEAR-7 BOYS: George Griffiths (Cow) 100, LJ 13.2, 4.67; Harry Dowell-Bennett (Cow) DT 22.47; Joshua Thomas (Cow) 800 2:28.6; Ben Brown (Llantwit) 1000 walk 5:56.8; Hugo Billington (Llantwit) SP 9.65. YEAR-7 GIRLS: Chelsea Siirak (Bro M) 200

29.5; Annabel Curle (Cow) HJ 1.35; Jordan Carpenter (Cow) 800 2:40.6; Danielle Dakin-Weston (Llantwit) JT 19.82; Ellis Auclas (St Cy) DT 17.50; Kate Coker (Stan) 1500 5:29.7.

AWARDS TO 2009 SPORTSHALL WINNERS UNDER-13 BOYS – Years 7 and 8: Rhys Elms (Cow) Speed Bounce 82. UNDER-15 BOYS – Years 9 and 10: Ben

Harding (St Cyres) Shot 12.70; Sam Street (Cow) Speed Bounce 80.

Certificates to athletes who competed at the Welsh Sportshall Finals, at Cwmbran Stadium, Welsh Sportshall Finals, at Cwmbran Stadium, March 1 – Under-13 Boys – Team 3rd - 507: Daniel Matthews (Cow) Standing LJ 2.02; George Griffiths (Cow) Standing LJ 2.32; Rhys Elms (Cow) Speed Bounce 83; Che Pomphrey (St Cyres) 4 Laps, VJ 63.5, 50; George Hooper (St Cyres) 2 Laps, Standing TJ 24.8, 5.90; Zach Harris (St Cyres) 2 Laps, Speed B 27.1, 71. Under-13 Girls – Team 4th - 489: Liz Whitehouse (Cow) Vertical Jump 50; Sarah Lewis (Cow) Standing Triple Jump 5.35.



ABOVE:

Senior Girls, who received district colours medals for representing Cardiff & the Vale Schools district at Welsh Schools championships this summer. Vale athletes included are Elinor Lewis, Leah Grisdale (both Bro Morgannwg) and Ayla Phillips (Llantwit). The fourth athlete is Lauren Regan (St David's College).



ABOVE: Promising sprinter Arran Reid received the u16 B Cup Final trophy on behalf of Barry Comprehensive.



ABOVE:

Elinor Lewis (Bro Morgannwg) receives the Frank Ireland Cup for the outstanding athlete, from former GB triple jump international Mr Graham Webb, President of Cardiff & the Vale of Glamorgan Schools' AA.

Under-15 Boys - Team 4th - 477: Harri Hitchcock (Cow) 4L, SLJ, SB 61.5, 2.25, 68; Sam Street (Cow) 2L, SLJ, SB 24.4, 2.11, 80; Ben Harding (St Cyres) 2L, SLJ, SP 24.7, 12.95, 2.14. AWARD OF TRACK AND FIELD COLOURS

to athletes who competed for Cardiff & the Vale Schools at the Welsh Schools' Championships (a) Combined Events at Swansea on June 27: Senior Boys - Under-20: Curtis Mathews (Barry); Sam

Booker (Llantwit)'
Senior Girls – Under-20: Savannah Taylor (Bro M); Leah Grisdale (Bro M).
Middle Boys – Under-17: Jake Connelly (Bro M); James Glaves (Bro M); Richard Pilcher (Bro M); Oliver Trotman (Cow); Rhys Allin (Cow); Samuel Morgan (Cow); Charlie Halpin (St John's);

Tom Phillips (Stan).

Middle Girls – Under-17: Ellie Carter (Bryn H);

Natalie Parsons (Llantwit).

Junior Boys – Under-15: Mathew Roan (St Cy).

Junior Girls – Under-15: Chloe Phillips (Llantwit).

(b) National Championships at Cardiff on July 4: Senior Boys – 1st - 114: Curtis Mathews (Barry); Sam Booker (Llantwit); Tom Whitmarsh-Knight (Bro M); Tom Williams (Bro M); Matt Wilcox (Cow); Josh Hill (Llantwit); Adam Jones

Senior Girls – 2nd - 90 Leah Grisdale (Bro M); Victoria Jackson (Barry Coll); Elinor Lewis (Bro M); Heather Jarvis (Cow); Maddi Edgeworth (Cow); Sian Balchin (Kings M); Ayla Phillips (Llantwit).



ABOVE:

Mrs Min Cypher presents the Capitol Shopping Centre Endeavour Cup to Barry Comprehensive sixth former Curtis Matthews.

Middle Boys - 2nd - 106: Jake Connelly (Bro M); Oliver Trotman (Cow); Rhys Allin (Cow); Tom Perry (Bro M); Sam Bunkham (Cow); Darren Jones (Llantwit); Scott Hewins (Llantwit);

Ben Harding (St Cy); Bradley Cole (St Cy); James Wiltshire (St Cy); Jamie Sexton (St Rich G).

Middle Girls – 5th – 80: Lia Thomas (Bro M);
Bethan Daw (St Cy); Lauren McCarthy (St Cy); Eloise Laity (West).

Junior Boys – 1st – 95: Matthew Roan (St Cy); Arron Reid (Barry); Matthew Edwards (Barry); George Connelly (Bro M); Gus McPherson (Cow); ; Cameron Jones (Stan); Tom Smith (Stan); Tom

Williams (Stan).

Junior Girls – 3rd = – 57: Fern Mason (Bro M);

Maisie Matthews (Bro M); Lucy Tarrant (Llantwit); Lucy Taylor (Llantwit). TEAM WINNERS at the Welsh Schools' Combined Events Championships at Swansea on 27/06/09: (a) Senior Boys: Captain – Curtis Mathews (Barry); (b) Senior Girls: Captain – Leah Grisdale (Bro M); (c) Middle Boys: Captain –

Oliver Trotman (Cow).
TEAM WINNERS at the Welsh Schools National Championships at Cardiff on 04/07/09: (a) Junior Boys: Captain – Cameron Jones (Stan); (b) Senior Boys: Captain – Adam Jones (Stan), AWARD TO ATHLETES WHO GAINED

INTERNATIONAL SELECTION: (a) For Welsh Schools at the SIAB Combined Events International at Glasgow, Scotland – 13 December, 2008: Under-18 Boys: Curtis Mathews (Barry); (b) For Welsh Schools at the SIAB u17 track & field international held at Antrim on July 18: Under-17 Boys: Jamie Sexton (St Rich G); (c) For Welsh Schools at the 4th UK School Games held at Cardiff on September 5/6: Under-17 Boys: Jamie

Sexton (St Rich G); James Wiltshire St Cyres. SPECIAL AWARDS – (a) The School gaining most points in the Championships – Cardiff High; (b) The Frank Ireland Cup – Elinor Lewis (Bro M); (c) The Capitol Shopping Centre Cup for Endeavour – Curtis Mathews (Barry); (d) The Bob Cypher Award & bursary - Elinor Lewis (Bro M).

BARRY PUPILS **GET 'INSIGHT** INTO ARMY LIFE'



ABOVE: Bryn Hafren girls applying a different style of make-up.

Comprehensive pupils recently spent day immersed in Army life, even moving them a chance to experiinto the barracks in Crickhowell Camp as part of an Army Insight work experience programme.

To make sure they had real taste of squaddies' life, the students were never fails to make me there is an option to suit each given a uniform and smile. taught how to build shelters outside, where they set up their own camp.

Meals were cooked how varied.

Meal were cooked how varied.

We try and set up a situation that they have while, during the day, the to negotiate, guide each to negotiate, assault courses, patrols command tasks and paintballing

students practical skills, an improve their team- who building abilities and increase their self-confidence, as well as giving

Army careers advisor for south Wales schools and pletely new situation.

"They all get stuck into whatever activity we throw at them, no matter

students tried their hand other through or where lifestyle, there really is at activities, including there is a problem to no other job like it and

group of Bryn scheme is run by the who are considering a f r e n Army and aims to teach career in the Army, it is excellent taster of what to expect.

"It is also a fabulous opportunity for young people to improve their teamwork and communience Army life. cation skills, meet nev Major Steve Morgan, people, and build self confidence in a com

everybody.

"It's also the chance

to experience something very different from life in the classroom.
"With opportunities

for training, to travel the world and have an active lve. we hope this is some-"Not only do the stu-thing the students take initialling. dents have a great time away with them at the The Insight course but for many of them end of the week."

NEWS FROM THE BARRY COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

PROFESSOR ON FACTFINDING TOUR GRILLS HEAD

BARRY Comprehensive welcomed Professor David Egan to the school recently.

Professor Egan is working with the Welsh Assembly Government to produce the 'School Effectiveness Framework' which will support headteachers in offering guidance on how to develop and sustain school improvement.

The professor asked the three headteachers from Barry Comprehensive, Sandfields Comprehensive, Port Talbot and Glyncoed Comprehensive in Ebbw Vale to contribute their ideas and experiences to the policy in the light of the successes of the three

Professor Egan was delighted with how the day went and felt that "the sustained school improve-ment in each of the three schools could be used as a model for other schools throughout Wales'

ABOVE, left to right: David Swallow, headteacher Barry Comprehensive, Nick Gibbon, headteacher Sandfields Comprehensive, Professor David Egan, Colin James, headteacher Glyncoed Comprehensive. Barry Comprehensive pupils Curtis and Mitchell are pictured (front).

Anti-bullying squad formed

AT the beginning of and how anti-bullying October, Linda James and John Hawkins from the charity Bulliesout met 15 volunteers colleges, said: "We aim to open the upper stake part in the activities are part in the activities are parts at the proper stake part in the activities are parts at the proper stake part in the activities are parts at the proper stake part in the activities are parts at the proper stake part in the activities are parts at the proper stake part in the proper stake part i excellent Peer2Peer **Mentor Training** Course.

The boys had volunteered to become part of the anti-bullying squad, a group of specially-trained pupils who offer support to pupils who prefer to talk to one of their peers, rather than an adult.
The day was an inten-

sive look at the issues surrounding bullying

support (ABS) counsellors could offer effective help to those in need.

Pupils gave presenta-tions and discussed techniques for interviewing, counselling and supporting their peers. The training allows the boys to become part of the ongoing fight against bullying, a problem that needs support from everyone.

During National Anti-Bullying week, November 16-20, the counsellors will be high-lighting bullying issues and there will be compo titions to design an ABS badge and a Widget for the cyberbullying web-

Rhian banks £3,000 for the Sully hospice



Rhian Clarke, Bruce Anderson, Lisa Rickard, proprietor of The Farmers Arms, with Andrew Thomas from HRT Estate Agents.

MORE than £3,000 was raised for Tv Hafan children's hospice at Sully, recently, at an event organised by NatWest senior bank manager Rhian Clarke.

As well as oversseing over 10 branches and 60 staff across the Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend county, she is also a non-executive director with Ty Hafan.

Rhian organised a very successful classical vening and auction at The Farmers Arms in St Brides Major.

Entertainment was provided by award-winning artiste Bruce

Anderson, who has won many accolades in the world of rock, classical and popular music, including Welsh Vocalist of the Year.

The auction was con-

ducted by estate agent Andrew Thomas of HRT in Cowbridge, and items under the hammer included a round of golf at the Vale complex and an exclusive opportunity to stay at the impressive Lloyd George suite at St Donat's Castle.

One of the raffle prizes included a golf bag autographed by
Welsh rugby star Gavin
Henson, which he used
in the Ant and Dec All Stars Golf Tournament at the Celtic Manor in

The total raised included a contribution from NatWest under a Community Cashback Award scheme which supports staff with fundraising and commu-

nity involvement. Rhian commented: "In this current economic climate, it can be a challenge to arrange fund-raising events, but I was overwhelmed with the level of support I received from everyone to ensure that the evening was a huge suc-

"The level of generosity displayed by the local community was awe-some and I would like to thank everyone who contributed 3

Barry YMCA's young gymnasts have all definitely got rhythm! who have not reached

A TOTAL of 27 girls from the **Barry YMCA** rhythmic gymnastics section took part in the Bath Championships, held at Bath University.

The emphasis was on fun, friendly gymnastics, enabling all levels and abilities to experience the chance to compete. There were four sections in the event, each comprising of five age

groups.

The first category (the fundamental section) is for children with no previous experience of competition. Barry YMCA was represented by Bethan Harris, Emily Glass, Leah Jenkins, Lowri McIntyre, and Seren Cummings. Seren took third place on both her pieces (free and hoop) and placed third overall. Leah followed Seren with three fourth position finishes.

The second category was the novice competi-tion. This large group covered a mix of abili-ties, from those who were fundamental standards last year, to those

the standards of the British grades finals this year.
The competition was

fierce with the following representation from the Barry YMCA: Abbie Williams, Chelsea George, Chloe Johns, Chloe Thurlbert, Cody Byrne, Daisy Connolly, Elle Gwatkin, Ellen Williams, Eve Hopkins, Ffion Byrne, Freya Evans, Georgia Smith, Joanna Hourihan. Lauren McLoughlin, Melissa James, Paige Rosser, Rebekah West, Seren James, Shanay Jenkins, Tayla Gerrish and Varnah Williams.

In the novice under-8 Elen placed fifth on rope, with Daisy fifth overall. In the under-10s Joanna placed second free, fifth on hoop and fourth overall with sixth on free and sixth overall and Eve sixth on hoop.

In the under-12s. Ffion placed first on free and fifth overall with Chloe Johns third on free and fourth on ball, leading her to first over-all and the title of Bath under-12 novice champi

In the junior level.



ABOVE: The Barry YMCA gymnasts

Melissa placed fourth on had no entries at this free and sixth overall with Elle sixth on free, fifth on clubs and fourth overall, and Cody fifth on free, fourth clubs and

third overall.
The third section of the competition is the intermediate section for children who have

level but was proud to have Megan McIntyre in the fourth category open event for gymnasts of British Championship level. Megan battled against gymnasts of exceptional abilities and placed fifth in rope.

For the first time, the passed their grading with Merit. The Barry YMCA group championships,

where gymnasts have to work in pairs, trios and groups of five with harmony and synchronisa-tion, combining rhythmic gymnastics body skills with large exchanges of apparatus. The ribbon trio placed first overall, with the rope group achieving third overall and the ball duet fifth overall.

British-built Jazz arrives in a local car showroom

Bridgend, is cele- facts about brating the arrival of its first 'homemade' Jazz, after the series of British-built of the workers to build this our home turf," said Mr John Boyce, dealer prinmodels. These include: Lit took 3,400 skilled workers to build this "We're very proud to the first Britishbuilt superminis started rolling off about it, is a pretty big we hope our the line at Honda's deal for the littlest will be, too." factory in Swindon Honda! earlier this month.

'homemade' campaign moment, it makes sense other awards.

workers to build this homemade Jazz

to manufacturing in the minis on sale in the UK. Together with the homemade Civic and CR-V, the three popular cars will make up nearly cars like Jazz and Civic 90 per cent of Honda's are in such high demand car sales in the UK. The in the UK at the years and won many

BASSETTS Honda will focus on telling the to build these models on Honda's our home turf," said Mr

> have another incredible which, when you think car built in the UK, and we hope our customers

Jazz is one of only "Honda is committed three British-built super-

"With 25 Years Experience, we must be doing something RIGHT!"



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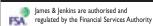
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COTTRELL PARK PAIR TAKE ON THE WORLD

and Steve Wood proudly represented Cottrell Park and Wales at the **International Pairs** World Final 2009 at Carnoustie and Monifieth recently.

Qualifying with 47 points from Cottrell Park in April 2008 and playing off handicaps of six and four respectively, the pair then won the regional final at The Players Club at Bristol in August 2008. This in turn progressed Rhodri and Steve to the UK final at Carnoustie in October 2008.

The pair played very well and at the end of the two-day UK final found themselves in fourth place overall, but more importantly the top Welsh pairing, guaran-teeing an invitation to the World Final in 2009.

The International Pairs World Final was to be played at Monifieth Golf Club, about five miles from Carnoustie,

against players who had travelled from all over the world including Canada, America, South Africa, Nigeria, Europe, and Israel

Neither Rhodri nor Steve had played much in the last year due to Rhodri's wife having a baby and Steve moving to Saudi Arabia for work and they had only played together once since the UK final in 2008.

However, on the first day of the competition at Monifieth, Steve and Rhodri started with birdies on 1, 4, 5 and 8 for 21 points.

The back nine at

Monifieth is definitely harder than the front nine and after 16 holes they were still scoring but not picking up any three-pointers.

Steve took the honour on 17 and scored three points into the wind on one of the hardest par four holes on the course. The 18th is a par five and Steve hit his three wood second shot three feet from the hole and

Harriers' quiz night
HIGH STREET Harriers FC are having a
fundraising football quiz night at The Ship
(Hungry Horse) in Barry, on Friday, December

4, commencing at 7pm.

It costs £10 per team (up to four in each team) to enter and the Hungry Horse has donated a voucher

for a prize.

Thee will also be a raffle with lots of prizes. *Pre*booking is a necessity, contact Justin on 07894 758164.



Rhodri Davies and Steve Wood on the first tee.

promptly slotted the putt for an eagle and four points. They were tied for second after the first day with 43 points and getting a little excited.

Carnoustie deserves its reputation. Jean Van de Velde's disaster in the burn on 18th in the 1999 Open

Championship is still talked about around Carnoustie, but the truth is Jean did amateurs a favour. Treat the last two holes at Carnoustie with respect or you will pay the ultimate price. Steve and Rhodri had

a disastrous front nine holes in the 2008 UK final at Carnoustie, and they were determined to play it better this time around. However, it was not to be, as cavernous bunkers, burns in the wrong places, three putts

and poor club selections meant a similar score to last year.

Dejected and heads hung low, they tackled the back nine knowing that their chances of winning were gone again. A couple of birdies on the back nine for four-pointers were not enough as their French Canadian teenage female playing partners were scoring three and four-pointers at will and powering ahead to eventually win with 83 points. Steve and Rhodri finished tied for third

with 78 points.
A massive achievement, third best in the world out of tens of thousands of original competitors, putting Cottrell Park and Wales firmly in the amateur golfing spotlight.

Cowbridge teams slip off the top spot

COWBRIDGE A Bar 44 suffered their second defeat of the season away to Cardiff Vets to slip from top spot in South Wales Division 2 East 'C'.

They still hold second place, only four points behind leaders Caldicot, while the Vets are 22 points behind Cowbridge

Simon Payne, guest-ing from the 'B' side, fired the As off to a fine start with another 3-0 victory at No 5.

This was followed up by a further 3-0 win from Niall Sloan, and so gain revenge over Noel McConkey who had edged it 3-2 in the corresponding fixture in Cowbridge a few weeks

Despite this fine platform, the remaining performers managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Surprisingly, numbers

3. 2 and 1 all lost with Garfield Leask going down 0-3, and the previ ously unbeaten Jon Bisson losing 1-3 to true veteran Alan James

Cardiff No 1 Dave Driscoll inflicted Nick Guard's first defeat of the campaign also. (Match result 7-13).

This week, the As play host to Monmouth and hope for a repeat of their 5-0 success earlier in the season.

Cowbridge B Bar 44 also lost the lead in their respective league (South Glamorgan Division One) to Fairwater - the Bs had no match while Fairwater took full advantage with a 5-0 (19-3) thumping of Barry.

This sets up this week's top of the table showdown when the Bs visit Fairwater (Wednesday) 11 points adrift but with a match in hand.

Cowbridge C find themselves near the rele-gation zone with a daunting visit to run away leaders Rhiwbina D (the Cs have a match in hand, however).

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06 56 CITROEN Picasso 1.6 HDi Exclusive. Grey met, 21k miles, rcl, pas, a/c, cd, e/w
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06 56 CHEVROLET Tacuma 1.6 SX MPV. Black met, 26k miles, rcl, e/w, cd £4,975
03 53 PEUGEOT 307 SW. Met black, alloys, a/c, cd, panoramic roof £4,975
03 53 CITROEN C8 2.0 SX AUTO. Met black, A/C, CD, electric sliding doors, 41k miles .£4,975
03 52 FORD Focus 1.6 LX ESTATE. Met alloys, a/c, cd, roof rails, 60k miles £4,475
02 51 VAUXHALL Zafira 1.6 Comfort 7-seater. Silver met, rcl, a/c, ew £3,675

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06 56 RENAULT Scenic 1.6 Dynamique AUTO. Gold met, only 2,700 miles

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07 Volkswagen Jetta 1.9 TDI SE PD 4dr (New) in silver, NEW SHAPE DIESEL, ONLY 21,000 miles. Loaded, a/c, alloys .£9,995

53 BMW 330D Sport Automatic 4dr in grey met, M Sport DIESEL auto, black dakota leather, a/c, climate £7,995





07 Volkswagen Polo 1.2 S (60) 5dr (New) in silver met, ONLY 8K, NEW SHAPE, low insurance 1.2. AS NEW£7,495



53 Volkswagen Golf 1.9 GT TDI 150 in black 5dr 150 BHP 6speed DIESEL. Alloys, Recaros, wood, a/c £6,995



07 Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 16v DESIGN 3dr in blue metallic, NEW SHAPE 3dr, ONLY 14K FSH. Air con, pas, leather £6,995





55 RENAULT Scenic 1.4 16 Dynamique 5-dr. Met silver, new shape, only 33k, FRSH,

06 Renault Clio 1.2 Campus Sport 3dr. In silver, ONLY 53,000 miles FSH, air con, electric windows, remote locking .£4,495



05 Renault Megane 1.6 16v Expression in red, 5dr new shape. ONLY 41,000 miles. FSH, a/c £4,495



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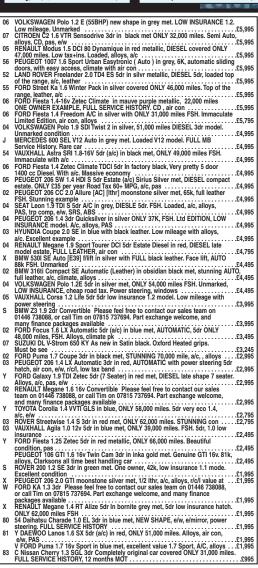
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07	FASH. Loaded£27,995 BMW 320i SE Cabriolet black met, NEW SHAPE convertible, 16,000 miles,	١
07	FBMWSH, e/w, a/c, climate£19,995 MERCEDES C320 CDI 3.0 Avantgarde SE Diesel in black met, 2007, DIESEL,	١
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33	contact our sales team on 01446 738088 or call Tim on 07815 737694 Part	ı
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56	/ seater DIESEL. 6 sp, a/c, climate, alloy wheels, r/c/I	١
53		١
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55	VOLKSWAGEN Passat 2.0 SE TDI 140 Estate 5dr Diesel in grey met, NEW SHAPE DIESEL, ESTATE 5dr. Loaded	١
53	AUDI TT 1.8 150 Cabriolet in silver, ONLY 51,000 miles, fuel efficient 2wd, low	١
55	tax balling to the control of the co	١
08	VAUVAGLE Corsa SRI 1.7 CDTI 5dr (New) in red. NEW SHAPE 5dr DIESEL.	١
52		١
09	Stereo, alloys, leahter, climate a/c	١
56	Stereo, alloys, leahter, climate a/c £8,995 FORD Flesta 1.25 Style (New) in red, NEW SHAPE covered ONLY 5,000 miles. Stunning with CD. Ipod Dock £8,995 HONDA Civic 2.2 SE CDTI 5dr Diesel Sport Pk in red, NEW SHAPE 63k, DIESEL	١
05	KIA Sorento 2.5 CDTi XF 4x4 Diesel in silver met DIFSFI low mileage Beautiful	١
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05	Leather, Loaded with FVWSH. 60K h/seats, a/c, climate	١
51	DIESEL ONLY 54k Loaded	١
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56	TOYOTA Yaris 1.3 T Spirit 3dr in silver met, new shape, ONLY 25,000 miles. FTSH. Top of the range with a/c, CD MP3 WMA, e/w, loaded	I
05	VÖLKSWAGEN Golf 1.4 S 5dr in black met, LOW INSURANCE, air con, ONLY 45,000 miles. E/w	١
04	VOLKSWAGEN Golf GT TDI 130 5dr in black met, GT DIESEL, FULL VW SERVICE HISTORY. 5dr	l
56	VALIXHALL Astra NEW 1.8 16v Design AUTO 5dr in silver met NEW SHAPE	
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,	PEUGEOT 206CC 2.0. In silver, with black leather trim, low mileage local convertible	
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07		
56		
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03	MINI 1.6 Auto. In black with full red leather trim, fantastic looking example at£	6,495
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56	SUZUKI Swift 1.3 GL 5-dr in met silver, 10.000 miles, superb throughout£	
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05		5,695
05	PEUGEOT 206 1.6 Quiksilver 3-Dr. 31,000 miles, sought-after limited edition model	4,995
05	PEUGEOT 206 1.4 Zest 2 5-dr. In met red, low mileage example at	
55	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi 3-dr. In met black, 25,000 miles, very desirable	
05	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 Twin Port SXi. In met silver, 48,000 miles, 1 local owner	
05		
03		
05		
54		
54	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.3 Diesel SXi Auto. In silver, 73,000 miles	3,995
54		
05	KIA Picanto 1.0 GS 5-dr. In red, 22,000 miles, low running costs	
05	ROVER 25 1.4 GLi 3-dr. In smoke silver, 50,000 miles, leather trim, alloys, a/c	
03	RENAULT Clio 12 Billabong. In silver, low mileage example at	
52		
54		
04		
	FORD Ka 1.3i in met blue, low mileage, low insurance	
51	VAUXHALL Corsa 1.2 SXi Auto in black, 69,000 miles with a/c, alloys, etc£	
04		
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05 MINI Cooper S, facelift model.



Y VW Golf 1.4 S. Lady owner, s/history, full electric pack, sunroof, superb economy, low tax & ins.





04 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDi 'S' 110 bhp. 90k, s/history, alloys, air con, cd player, sports trim, 55 mpg.



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53 HONDA Jazz 1.4 SE Sport Auto. CD player, low tax & insu



02 MERCEDES 230 CLK Avantgarde Auto 1 owner, fsh, alloys, leather, cd system,



03 JAGUAR X-Type 2.0 SE V6 80k, fsh, alloys, cd system, full leather, chrome pack,

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GEM sport

After almost slip sliding

Proud day for Vale sculptor as 'iconic' statue is unveiled

has told The GEM about his "fabulous" day when his biggest commission - a massive bronze of a Welsh legend was unveiled in

front of a gathering of VIPs in Cardiff. Roger Andrews, who worked on the project at his home in Llantwit Major for almost a year, was there when the nine-foot tall bronze statue of Sir Tasker Watkins, VC, was unveiled last was unveiled last Sunday, November 15, at the Millennium Stadium.

A WRU spokesman said that it would be a permanent memorial to "one of the most accomplished Welshmen of the late 20th century".

The statue is taking pride of place on the ele-

vated section of the main stadium entrance in Westgate Street, where hundreds of thousands of visitors pass by throughout the year.

out the year.

It was a big moment for Roger, as the statue was unveiled by Sir Tasker's daughter, Lady Mair Griffith-Williams, following a march past by troops and the band from the 2nd battalion of the Royal Welsh Regiment.
Roger told The GEM:

"It was the first time that Lady Mair has seen the nine-foot finished statue.

"She had approved a three-foot version, but had not seen it since. I was thrilled, because it was obvious to everyone that she loved it!"

More than 150 VIPs attended the ceremony, including the Lord Chief

Rugby washout

LAST Saturday, the Deri away fixture fell victim to the weather.

The next game is at home against St Albans at 2.30pm on December



Roger Andrews with Lady Mair Griffith-Williams in front of the statue of former WRU president Šir Tasker Watkins.. Picture by HUW EVANS.

Pickering and group chief executive, Roger Lewis.

Sir Tasker Watkins, who died in September 2007 aged 88, was widely regarded as one of the most influential Welshmen of the late

Justice, Lord Judge, the First Minister, Rhodri and the Millennium Morgan, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, The Archbishop of Wales and Major General R J M Porter.

The Welsh Rugby Dositions in the UK when Union was represented by its president, Dennis Gethin, chairman David and Wales.

Justice, Lord Judge, the Welsh Regions formed the Millennium As an accomplished Ars an accomplished the judiciary to achieve one of the highest legal Union was represented by its president, Dennis Gethin, chairman David and Wales.

Lady Mair Griffith-Williams said: "I am very proud that my father has been commemorated by this wonderful statue

The First Minister, Rhodri Morgan, said: Rhodri Morgan, said:
"Sir Tasker was a unique individual, and I stand by my belief that he was truly one of the outstanding Welshmen of the ing Welshme 20th century.

"When people visit the Millennium Stadium, they will look up to him as an iconic example of a man who was both gifted and determined, but at the same time, coura-geous and humble."

The bronze statue of Sir Tasker stands nine foot high on a concrete plinth above the ramp at ground entrance three to

the Millennium Stadium.

Watching the pomp and ceremony was Roger Andrews, and it all seemed a long way from the tentative beginnings of the project, when he submitted a one-foot high marque to the organising committee.
In recent weel

organising committee.

In recent weeks,
Roger has been making
regular visits to the
foundry at Stroud, putting the finishing touches to the statue, which was transported to Cardiff

last Friday by lorry.

He told The GEM: "It was a fabulous day – even though it rained for the 20-minute unveiling

ceremony!
"I was so delighted by Lady Mair's reaction. If I never completed another work, I am certain this is the one sculpture I pas-

who died in September 2007 aged 88, was wide-and particularly pleased it is here at the most influential Welshmen of the late 20th century, and he achieved global recognition for his achievements in several fields of individual endeavour.

His rise to prominence in rugby administration and the law was achieved after a wartime act of bravery which earned him the Victoria Cross for exceptional valour.

He was president of the Welsh Rugby Union friend and, like everyone who has made the law was achieved in rugby administration and the law was achieved him the Victoria Cross for exceptional valour.

He was president of the Welsh Rugby Union friend and, like everyone from 1993 until 2004, during 11 turbulent years which saw the game turn example and humbled by his work, 1 am certain this is the one sculpture I passionately wanted to create."

After the ceremony, Roger, his wife Andrea and daughter Olivia were invited to a reception together with 140 other guests.

The GEM asked if his new-found fame had generated any new commissions, and Roger confirmed that he is one of fire exceptional valour.

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away against Samoa... Wales know there

will be no room for error against rampaging Pumas

BACK PAGE COMMENT by Don John

F the defeat to the All Blacks had again underlined Welsh shortcomings in terms of clinical control at key moments, taking their scoring opportunities, and closing down cliffedge games, the frailties were even more cruelly exposed by a Samoan squad that had been together for just three or four days.

Remarkably, some 60,000 supporters had again loyally poured into Cardiff's Millennium stadium on a dismal, rain-stormed Friday night for the second (and, arguably, easiest) of the four autumn Tests, hoping the lessons of the previous week had been absorbed.

In the event, despite the narrow 17-13 win, fans would have shared the obvi-ous frustration of the coaches at the lack of composure that saw oodles of quality possession and huge territorial advantage squandered, with basic handling errors and fatal lapses in concentration that almost cost Wales dearly in the end.

After watching his strug-gling team, showing just four changes from the New Zealand match, fail to convert overwhelming superiori-ty in all phases into an emphatic lead, Wales' none Warren Gatland's terse com-ment was: "We should have finished the game off earlier". Not that the fiercely com-

petitive, individually-talented Samoans were regarded as a push-over by the Welsh camp far from it. Their success rate against Wales speaks for itself, particularly on two best-forgotten World Cup occasions!

However, given their lack of preparation, compared to the settled Welsh squad's extended time together, the latter should surely have made this a far more telling factor in its favour.

Instead, the errors, erratic decision-making, and familiar tendency to switch off at critical junctures, meant a glut of promising opportuni-ties went begging and it was Wales who were clinging on desperately to their slender lead at the end. No doubt the mangled,

slippery state of the Millennium stadium pitch did not help the free-flowing style of play that Gatland's Wales aspire to; and it is just as well that the WRU is replacing it (for the umpteenth time!) with the more testing encounter against the rugged Argentines on Saturday, and Australia lurking in the

The players well know that they are now going to have to step up several gears if Gatland's goal of three wins out of four is to be realised; notwithstanding the ill luck that has shorn the team of key individuals, most notably their only specialist tight head, Adam Jones (how they could use him on Saturday against the truly formidable Pumas front row!)
The coaches, though, will

have been encouraged by some fine individual performances, particularly with the timely return to form of Dwayne Peel to fill the scrum half gap left by the injured

Mike Phillips; and also that of young wing Leigh Halfpenny.

Stop gap full back, James Hook again demonstrated his versatility with an accomplished display; though the thought persists that his unique talents really lie in his favoured No 10 position. Regrettably, this gifted

player may yet have to leave the Ospreys (and even, perhaps, Wales) in order to make his point and avoid being labelled Wales' peren-nial 'utility man'.

Be that as it may, for now all eyes turn to the Argentina test, and the announcement of the Wales team was awaited with more than usual interest.

After almost slipping up against Samoa, would Gatland give the young guns another blooding, or fall back on more experienced heads?

The answer came on Tuesday, when Gatland announced only one change from the New Zealand game – Scarlets centre Jonathan Davies coming in for the injured Tom Shanklin, and Peel surprisingly having to settle for the bench.

WALES TEAM: James Hook, Leigh Halfpenny, Jamie Roberts, Jonathan Davies, Shane Williams, Stephen Jones, Gareth Cooper; Gethin Jenkins, Matthew Rees, Paul James, Alun-Wyn Jones, Luke Charteris, Andy Powell, Martyn Williams, Ryan Jones (captain).

Replacements: Huw Bennett, Duncan Jones, Bradley Davies, Dan Lydiate, Dwayne Peel, Andrew Bishop, Tom James.

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